ROSSEAU

The Early Years

Copy of the 1866 Survey Map of the Townplot of Helmsley, from the Parry Sound Land Registry. RV003a.

COPY

PLAN

OF THE TOWN PLOT OF

HELMSLEY

IN THE FIFTH CON. OF

HUMPHRY

TOTAL AREA 193 ACRES

Scale 1/3168

4 chs = 1 in

(Signed) Wm. Alexander Robertson Registrar of the Parry Sound Registry Division

Aug 20 A.D. 1866

A.T. Clarke

N.B. Each street is numbered from West to East. The chainage is to the Northward or East. The streets are in square Plots and Fractions thereof

B

Copy of the 1866 Survey Map of the Townplot of Helmsley, from the Parry Sound Land Registry. RV003b.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Arthur J. Ariss
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Mrs. Eileen (Lake) Beley
Miss Mary Beley
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Mr. George Pogson
Mrs. Agnes Shortt
Mrs. Florence Smith
Mrs. Anne (Frost) Stevens
Mrs. Isabel Swainson
Mr. Frederick Wilkes
Frank T. & Emily Wood
Mr. Peter Wood

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Rosseau Hall Board
Rosseau Horticultural Society
Rosseau School Board
Rosseau Women's Institute
St. Andrew's United Church
Village of Rosseau

The crest of the Rosseau Historical Society was designed and drawn by Audrey Tournay, Aspen Valley Sanctuary - 1997. RO140.

Cover photo: **The Bay of Rosseau. Photo reproduced from a Tin Type. Photo courtesy of Bert & Connie (Roberts) Atkinson. RV002.**

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The Village of Rosseau has enjoyed the company of many famous people over the years. Pauline Johnson is one such person. The Rosseau Historical Society's next book will highlight more such famous people.

Emily Pauline Johnson

(born: March 10, 1861 - died: March 7, 1913)

Photo above: **Pauline Johnson is in the foreground on the docks of Rosseau. Names of others in photo are unknown. Photo taken in 1892. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RP558.**

Pauline Johnson was related by blood to two well known United Empire Loyalists, Sir William Johnson and Chief Joseph Brant. Both men left the Mohawk Valley in the days of the American Revolution.

In 1892, Pauline Johnson took a holiday staying first with her mother in Brantford and then returning once more to Muskoka to visit Frederick Wilkes and his family. She was able to undertake a canoe expedition up the beautiful Shadow River. Mr. C.V. Shaw provided a locally made Ditchburn Brother's canoe and acted as a guide. During the trip she wrote the rough draft of the poem Shadow River and completed it after she returned to touring.

Shadow River, Muskoka

A stream of tender gladness,
Of filmy sun, and opal tinted skies;
Of warm midsummer air that lightly lies
In mystic rings,
Where softly swings
The music of a thousand wings
That almost tones to sadness.

Midway 'twixt earth and heaven,
A bubble in the pearly air, I seem
To float upon the sapphire floor, a dream
Of clouds of snow,
Above, below,
Drift with my drifting, dim and slow,
As twilight drifts to even.

The little fern-leaf, bending
Upon the brink, its green reflection greets,
And kisses soft the shadow that it meets
With touch so fine,
The border line
The keenest vision can't define;
So perfect is the blending.

The far, fir trees that cover
The brownish hills with needle green and gold,
The arching elms o'erhead, vinegrown and old,
Repictured are
Beneath me far,
Where not a ripple moves to mar
Shades underneath, or over.

Mine is the undertone;
The beauty, strength, and power of the land
Will never stir or bend at my command;
But all the shade
Is marred or made,
If I but dip my paddle blade;
And it is mine alone.

O! pathless world of seeming!
O! pathless life of mine whose deep ideal
Is more my own than ever was the real.
For others Fame,
And Love's red flame,
And yellow gold; I only claim
The shadows and the dreaming.

Preface

Everyone is familiar with the expression, "How time flies when you're having fun." Such was the case when the research for the Village history began over 30 years ago. At that time it was intended to be a Tweedsmuir History, a project of the Women's Institute.

Each branch of the Women's Institute (W.I.) keeps a Tweedsmuir History. This began in the mid 1920s as a new interest for the institute members dealing with historical research and current events. The members were encouraged to begin a "Historical Scrap" book that would record a history of their community. These books were a forerunner of the Tweedsmuir Books, which were launched in 1945 to mark the 50th birthday of Women's Institute. Lady Tweedsmuir, recently widowed, approved the idea that the local history books would be named after her late husband, a former Governor General of Canada.

The Rosseau Tweedsmuir book was started about thirty years ago by Mrs. Amy (Beley) Jackson, Mrs. Doreen (Shortt) Nowak and Miss Dorothy E. Coate with the help of other W.I. members and people around the Village. They spent many hours writing up the history and collecting photographs of the Village and surrounding area. It is this original Tweedsmuir Book that the Rosseau Historical Society has used as a basis for **Rosseau: The Early Years**, expanding and adding more historical points and photographs. At this time the Rosseau Historical Society offers their grateful thanks to the Women's Institute of Rosseau.

In September of 1996, the Rosseau Historical Society was formed with the mission statement:

To gather and preserve Rosseau and area historical information and artifacts and to work towards establishing a museum in the Village of Rosseau.

The Rosseau Historical Society, has completed the work started 30 years ago by the publication of **Rosseau: The Early Years**, giving a glimpse into the past. We begin when the first settlers came into what then was unsurveyed land around the 1860s. The stories and photos that we have included in this book only reach into the 1950s. We found ourselves repeating the phrase "that will be in the next book." We do have plans to publish a second book in the future.

We welcome any further historical information and photographs for our next venture. We have tried to the best of our ability to record the information correctly. While keeping in mind that a lot of this written history was originally recorded through conversations with people who are now deceased, we hope that this book, **Rosseau: The Early Years** will provide an insight into the history of our Village.

Rosseau Historical Society
PO Box 268, Rosseau, Ontario, P0C 1J0

Indian History

The Indian population had declined over the hundred years leading up to the arrival of the first settlers in the Rosseau area. This part of the country was not only an Indian hunting ground, but its waterways were an old route for the Indians from the Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River. The most notable Indian of this area was probably Abram Assey and his son, known by the same name.

When the first survey party landed here in 1861, Abram Assey and his family were camped in Rosseau Bay, the site of which is now the public picnic area. Their home was a birch bark wigwam, "warm and comfortable", as recorded by the surveyors. As with the tourists of today, the Indians were seasonal in this part of the country, and left before winter set in. Most of them made the trading post at Penetanguishene their headquarters. There they could exchange their furs for food and clothing. According to legend, they used to come to the head of Lake Rosseau each spring to plant corn, on part of the ground where Rosseau Lake College is now established. They had beaten a path down to the shoreline where they landed their canoes.

A short distance from the mouth of Shadow River is a sheltered spot, under a rocky cliff where the Indians used to camp. This river no doubt, yielded an abundance of fur bearing animals, as they returned here years after settlers were clearing land for farms. Arrow and spearheads were often turned up when plowing fields close to the river. Before the level of Lake Rosseau was raised, the lighthouse shoal was a small rocky island with a few trees growing on it. There was an Indian grave there with an old canoe turned over it. When the locks were built at Port Carling and the lake level was raised, the island then became a shoal and the trees slowly died.

Early Surveys

There is the greatest possibility that the first white man to paddle in to Rosseau Bay, was the great explorer and map maker, David Thompson. In 1837 on government instructions he made a rapid survey of the three Muskoka Lakes. These maps of the lakes, the first with any pretense to accuracy, lay unknown in some government office for years.

During the next few years other surveys were made of the region from the Severn River north to Lake Nipissing. Soon pressure was put on the government to survey this uninhabited tract of land and set it up as counties and townships. It was believed this huge tract of land possessed a vast supply of valuable timber, but its fitness for agricultural purposes was unknown.

It was not until 1861 that Mr. J. S. Dennis, Provincial Land Surveyor, under government instructions organized a survey party to carry on surveys of the colonization roads, in what was to become Muskoka and Parry Sound districts. One of the men in the survey party was Mr. Vernon B. Wadsworth, then 16 years of age, who in later years had his summer home in the Village of Rosseau on McCarthy Street on the waterfront.

It soon became apparent, that a craft larger than a canoe, would be necessary to transport all the food supplies and equipment necessary for an extended survey in this area. Mr. Dennis purchased a twenty foot sailboat in Kingston, Ontario and had it sailed and freighted overland to South Bay, Lake Muskoka. Here it was loaded with supplies and sailed to the portage at Indian Village (Port Carling), then moved on rollers into Lake Rosseau.

At the head of Lake Rosseau they moored at the mouth of the river, and nearby a store camp was established. Here the men cleared about an acre of land, which later became the site where Pratt's Hotel (The Rosseau House) was located. From here they ran an exploration line to Parry Sound, and were received with great delight by the few who lived there. Now they would be able to travel out in winter, other than by the ice on Georgian Bay.

Photo above: **The entrance to Shadow River where the Dennis Survey party landed and set up camp. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. SR013.**

When the surveyors returned to their camp, winter was approaching. Some of the men were instructed to take the sailboat on shore to a sheltered spot. With the help of an Indian who was camped in the bay, the boat was taken down the east shore and hauled out of the water. The surveyors then ran an exploration line south to North Falls, now Bracebridge.

It was in the summer of 1864 when the first settlers came into the unsurveyed land which later became the Township of Humphrey. They were Mr. Edward Clifford and Mr. Albert Williams, an old trapper, and between them they owned most of the land that was to become the Village of Rosseau. Mr. Clifford obtained his lots by "squatters rights", and these were bordered on two sides by Rosseau Bay and Shadow River. Mr. Albert Williams was located directly across the river, later to become the Beley Farm.

It was that same summer that the first party of holiday campers were to reach the head of Lake Rosseau. Their method of travel was by rowboat from the foot of Lake Muskoka. In the account of their camping trip here, they tell of finding a river but could not enter it because of the marsh at its mouth. Presumably this was White Oak Creek, later renamed Shadow River. In those days, before the locks at Port Carling, the level of the lake would be much lower, and no doubt parts of Rosseau Bay would also be a marsh of reeds and bulrushes.

The Rosseau Nipissing Road

Designed to encourage settlement in what is now the Parry Sound District, the Rosseau Nipissing Road was authorized by the Government in 1864. A survey was completed the following year and construction began in 1866. Commencing at Camerons Bay at the north end of Lake Rosseau, it ran 67 miles northward terminating at Nipissing, then a tiny settlement. However, it was soon found that what is now known as Rosseau Bay, was a better connecting point for travellers by lake and road. By 1873, the road was open for winter traffic, and two years later was considered negotiable by wheeled vehicles.

The stage carried the mail and passengers and as many as 30-40 teams would set out loaded with freight, or families going to settle in the territory along Nipissing Road. If the road was extremely muddy, as it often was, the male passengers were obliged to walk up the hills, and some declared they had walked the whole distance! It took four days going up with the loads of freight of about 1500 lbs, and three days to return. One of the stopping places was the Humphrey Hotel at Ashdown Corners. Until 1886, when the railway reached Callander, travel was heavy on the Nipissing Road.

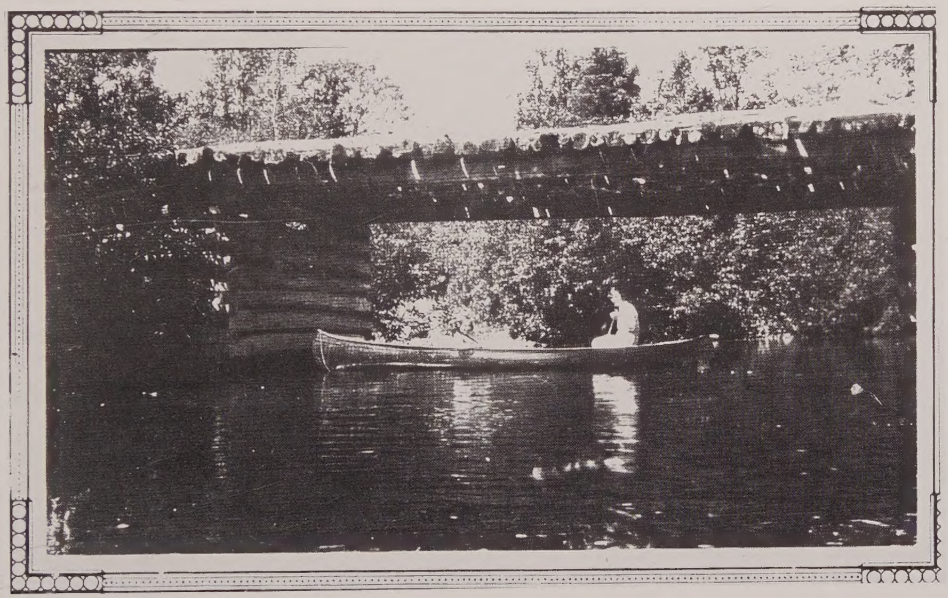


Photo above: **The 2nd bridge on Shadow River where the Nipissing Road crossed the river. The bridge no longer exists but evidence of markings where the crossing was, is still there. Photo courtesy of Mary Beley. SR008.**

Camerons Bay played an important role in the pioneer settlement of this area. This shallow bay was the landing spot of the early surveyors, who blazed out the roadway to Lake Nipissing. The name is derived from Colonel Angus Cameron who came in 1865. Colonel Cameron held the government contract to build the portion of the Nipissing Road from the bay to the point where it crossed the Parry Sound Road, then known as the Great Colonization Road. He cleared some land, built a shanty and called his home Glen Nevis.

The following are names of some of the settlers who came in 1866-69:

Alexander, Ashdown, Beal, Beley, Bray, Davison, Dawson, Draycott, Ditchburn, Evans, Heighton, Knight, Lambert, Lorimer, Magor, Martin, McGary, Milne, Meisenheimer, Morgan, Peacock, Phinney, Pratt, Previn, Shuttleworth, Slade, Stoneman, and Thomas.

The majority of the early settlers came into the region because of the free land grants. Some were attracted by the topography, the lakes, rivers and rolling hills which reminded them of their homeland. Little attention seems to have been given to the type of land and its value for agricultural purposes. They were a mixed lot of tradesmen, farmers, carpenters, shoemakers, stonemasons, shopkeepers, boat builders, wagon and sleigh makers and inn keepers, all of whom played an important role in the development of the area.

Many of these early settlers had no money to hire laborers and so they gathered together to help a neighbour with a large job, and held a "Bee." The most common were house and barn raising "Bees", to clear land, cut wood and build fences. The women folk also took part in "Bees", preparing the meals for the hungry men, and though the day was long, the raising usually grew into a celebration. Someone was certain to bring along a violin; perhaps a wee drop of spirits was on hand to christen the new building, and the folk would dance until the early hours of the morning.

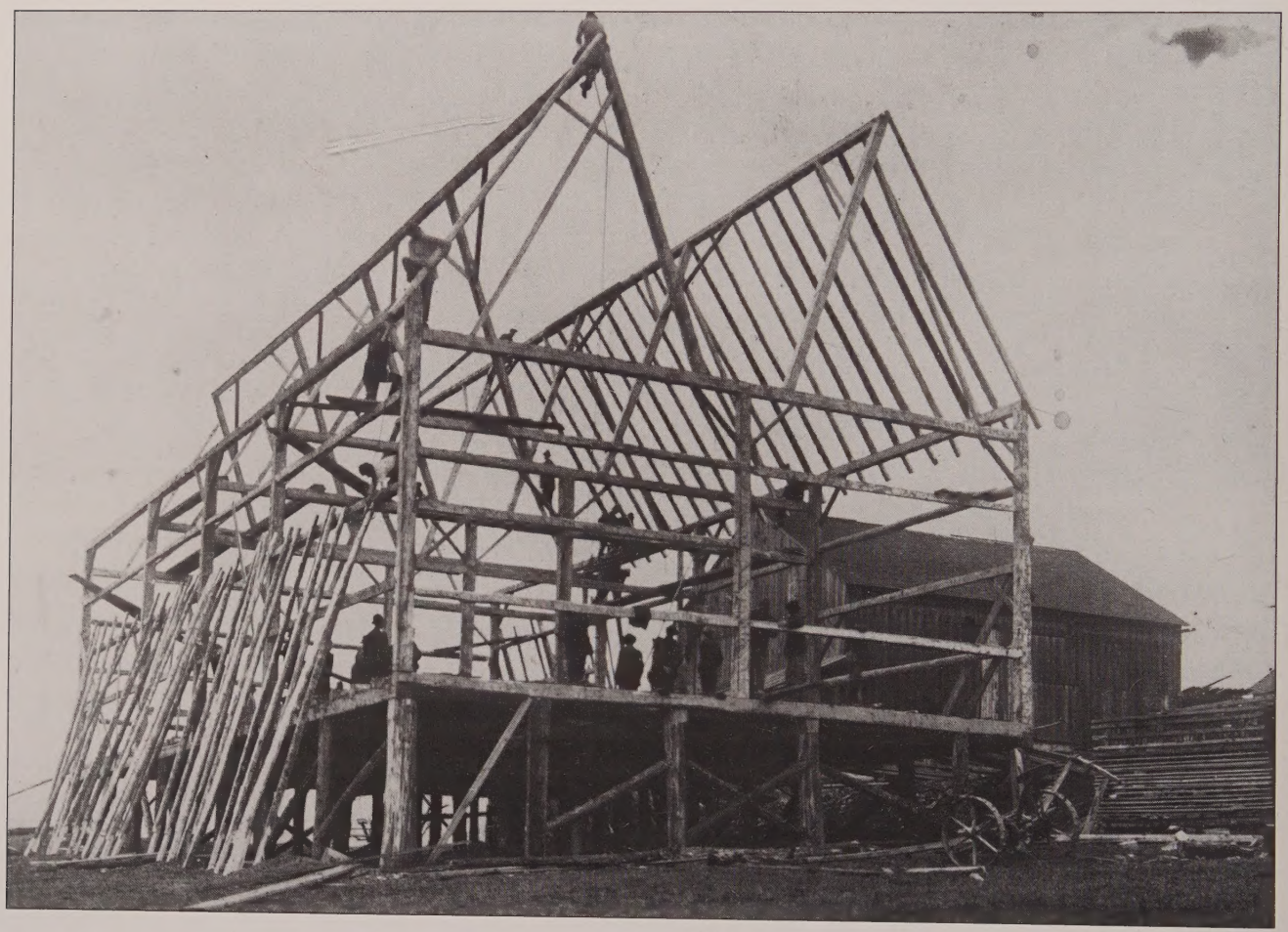


Photo above: **Barn Raising "Bee", early 1900s. Photo courtesy of Amy (Beley) Jackson. RF001.**

Early Settlers

The first family to settle north of Lake Rosseau was Mr. & Mrs. Ebenezer Sirett. Mr. Sirett and his sons arrived in September 1865 and soon became the owners of five lots. This was on the north side of the Great Colonization Road (Highway 141) where the Nipissing Road crosses. After building their shanty, their next act was to help cut a winter trail to join the east and west sections of the Colonization Road. When completed, the mail could be taken by land to Parry Sound, which in winter had been completely isolated except when the ice on Georgian Bay was safe for travelling. Mr. & Mrs. Sirett and their family had come from England to Etobicoke Township in 1859, where they rented a farm. Mr. & Mrs. Sirett and their daughters moved to their new home in the summer of 1866, where land was being cleared for farming and was to remain in the Sirett family for a great number of years.

Photo above: **Ebenezer Sirett, born: 1813 - died: Feb 28, 1895 82 years old. RP559.**

Photo above: **The Sirett's first home. The house was located at Ashdown Corners which is currently Nipissing Road and Hwy 141. RM088.**

Photo right: **The Methodist Church near Ashdown Corners, estimated date around 1871. It was later torn down and the lumber used to build the Hekkla United Church. RC052.**

Photos courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate.

November 1866

All iron goods out here are dear so I advise you to bring harrow teeth wedges, 2 or 3 briar hooks or Staffordshire bill hooks for under brushing, also beatle rings and hair mattress, blankets, sheets, quilts, tablecloths and towels as all are very dear out here. Also bring a suit or two of that yellowish material, a sort of jeans for summer as its most thundering hot. A cap with flaps to come right down your neck and cover your ears. Your Bowie is the size generally used out here. Most men here also carry a pistol or revolver, if they can afford it, as you have out here to guard your own life and property as there are no "Bobbies". Everyone here expects the Fenians raid next spring, so everyone is getting well armed, and I pity any Fenian that came this road. We have here on our walls 14 barrels, always ready.

December 20th, 1866

When the packers start, Mr. Bolyer, my man and myself go off chaining. First of all we fix the compass and put out the road marking them with an iron. Then two men go in front underbrushing and blazing whilst Mr.Bolyer and I run the line with a compass. Then as the road gets a little clear, I chain up to them. At the end of each 10 chains I take down in a book the sort of land and timbers I pass through, marking all lakes, beaver meadows, swamps and hills etc. and then by bearing, by compass, so that when I come back next spring I shall have a full history of the land on both sides of the Nipissing Road.

I suggest you bring a box of tea, coffee, pepper, cayenne, mustard, allspice, cloves, nutmeg, mace, essence of lemon, all of which are very dear out here. We have been spending some few days with some surveyors that are going up to survey land up to Lake Nipissing. I will get $18 a month. Each of us will have a pack of provisions weighing 66lbs.to carry as well as our clothes, right through the bush. I have to walk on snowshoes and moccasins.

We chose two lots about 19 miles from Parry Sound and 5 miles from the nearest settler, but that is nothing out here. One man left his work and came round with us to look at the lots and then we went to his home and had tea. He is going to put up a house next week and we are asked to the "Bee". Our cooking utensils consist of three tin cups, two ditto knives, one frying pan, one bake kettle and one pail. We have plenty of music in the shape of wolves as we hear them every night. They pay $4 a head for them. There are plenty of deer and bear about. On Sunday we dined off bush mutton which is beaver and very delicious it was, especially the tail. There is a stage that carries the mails from the Sound to Lake Rosseau passing our door 2 a week. They bring anything you want and deliver it at your house only charging $1.

Clothing is not half as dear as they make out, some things are cheaper. I advise you to bring a pair of boots to come up to your knees over your trousers, without any nails and strong soles. They all wear them here. We have ordered our moccasins at $1 a pair. There is no whiskey shanty anywhere about here.

Letters, left: **For a description of life among the early pioneers of this area, we can do no better than to quote from letters of a Mr. Brooke Dawson written in 1866 to his brother-in-law in England, who was planning to come to Canada the following year. These letters were brought back to Canada with Mr. Benjamin Sowden Beley. Copies of letters courtesy of Amy (Beley) Jackson.**

The Fenian Threat

The militant Irish-American Fenian Brotherhood formed forces large enough to attack Canada with the aim of conquest in order to use it as a base of operation against Great Britain.

There was about a fortnight ago, three came to the North Falls, about thirty miles from hence, to look for land but it no sooner got known they were Fenians than they were chased out of the township and from one to another till they were clear out of the country.

The song you hear out here on all mouths is:

Tramp, Tramp, Tramp
The boys are marching
Cheer up comrades they came
And beneath the Union Jack
We will drive the Fenians back
And fight for our beloved
Canadian home.

Humphrey Township

It was in 1866 when Humphrey Township came into being, and was surveyed into lots and concessions. The same year the plan of a Townplot was laid down, and it was known as the Townplot of Helmsley, now the Village of Rosseau. An authentic origin of either name has never been established. In 1866 or 1867, a Mr. John Beal obtained the land at the foot of the hills overlooking Rosseau Bay, and he built a log shanty. Perhaps this was the man who handled the first mail arriving or leaving the small settlement. The following are excerpts from the diary of Mr. Benjamin Sowden Beley (grandfather of Mrs. Amy (Beley) Jackson and great-grandfather of Miss Mary Beley) who arrived in the area on May 9th,1867.

May 6th: From Toronto to Barrie by Northern Railway, stage to Orillia and private conveyance to Gravenhurst.

May 8th: Left Gravenhurst on foot, via the falls at Bracebridge along the Muskoka Road to shanty of Anthony Suffern.

May 9th: Started early and walked to Rosseau P.O., then onto the Corners. *He described the rough terrain over which he travelled, the latter part of the so called road, a blazed trail through the wilderness.*

May 11th: Slade, Irwin, myself and Beal the postmaster, went in the rowboats and canoe to the Indian village (Port Carling) 14 miles distance. The steamer Wenonah had not arrived there by 5 pm, so we went on again. Some of the party to Gravenhurst for provisions, we for the North Falls.

A letter Mr. Beley sent to England on June 3rd, 1867 was headed as thus:

Rosseau Post Office
Simcoe County, Canada West.
By Canadian Packet.

Photo left:
Benjamin Sowden Beley
(1841 - 1896). RP560.

Photo right:
Emma Lucy (Dawson) Beley
(1839 - 1899). RP561.

Photos courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate.

May 16th: Brooke and I to Parry Sound on foot for provisions.

May 17th: Back to Brooke's shanty with a team load of supplies.

May 22nd: Beal missed the mail at the Indian Village so we borrowed Cameron's boat from Rosseau at 4 pm and arrived at the Indian Village at 6:40 pm. Slept till 2 am, then rowed to Gravenhurst in three and three quarter hours in the pouring rain. Mrs. Beley arrived at their wilderness shanty June 10th, having travelled from Collingwood to Parry Sound on the steamer Waubuno, and on to her home with horse drawn vehicle.

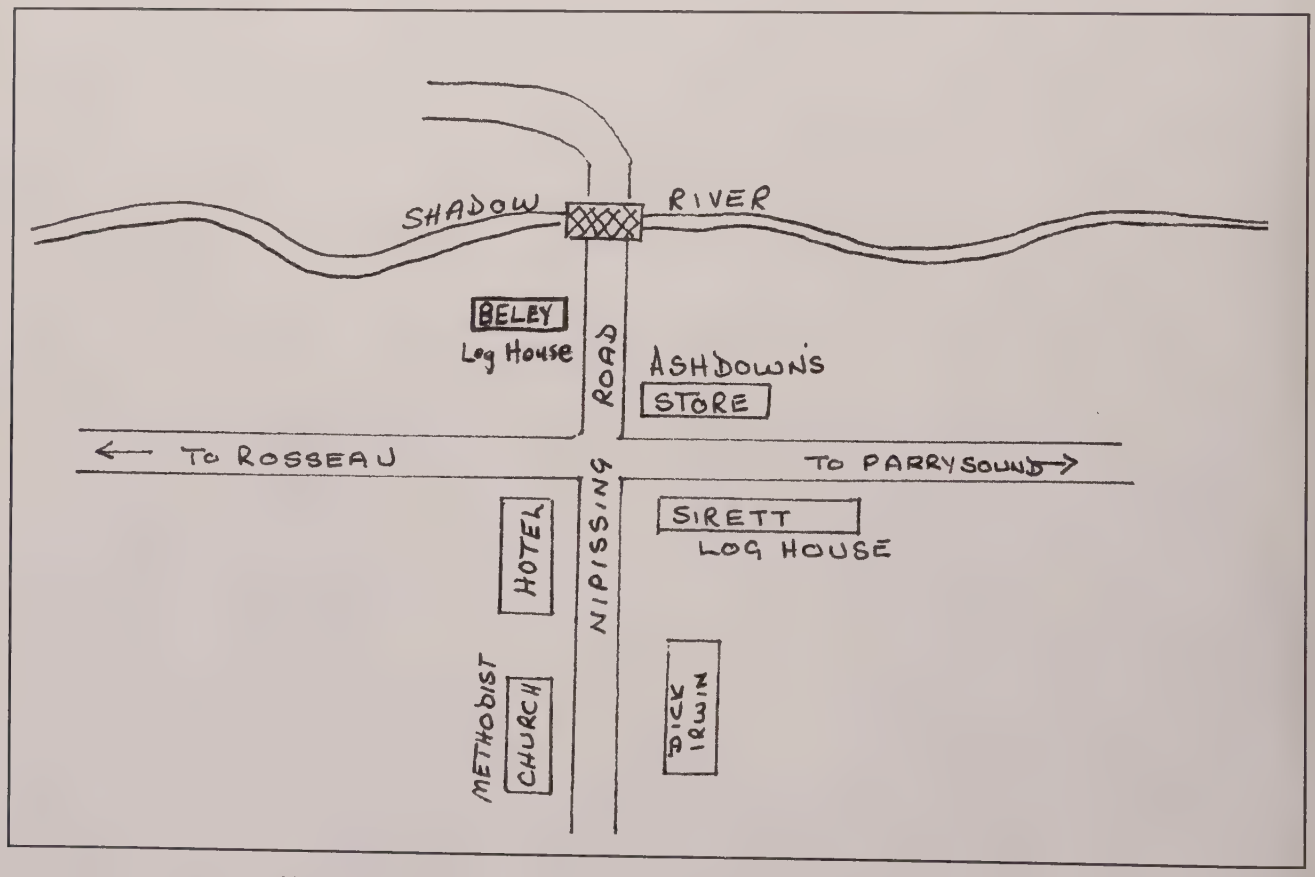
June 11th: Irwins going to live with Col. Cameron so we can have his shanty, it is bigger. Blackflies and mosquitoes are terrible.

June 16th: Sold a few little things out of store.

Aug.12th: Parson came to establish a Sunday School.

On March 7th, 1868, a son was born to Mr. & Mrs. Beley, the first white child to be born in Humphrey Township and they named him Charles.

Ashdown Corners



Map above: **Ashdown Corners as explained to Dorothy E. Coate. RV022.**

Mr. & Mrs. James Ashdown arrived in the spring of 1868. From Gravenhurst they took the small steamer Winonah to Port Carling. From there up Lake Rosseau in a large rowboat, owned and operated by Will Sirett, who carried the mail to the Post Office at the Corners, as well as, new settlers and their belongings. The Ashdowns bought half an acre of land and built a store, where the Hwy 141 and Nipissing Road cross, and that became Ashdown Corners.

Another pioneer family who arrived in 1868 were Mr. & Mrs. Charles Martin and their family. Many years later, their daughter Mrs. Alfred Clubbe of Rosseau wrote a description of pioneer times from which the following quotations are taken:

"We landed at what was known as Camerons Bay, the only landing at the head of Lake Rosseau. Rosseau itself was not on the map at that time. From there we had to walk three miles through a narrow bush trail to my Uncles and the mosquitoes were in thousands to give us a welcome. The neighbours made a "Bee" and built us a house. The cracks between the logs were chinked with moss. There was a bough roof and a mud floor for two years. The cold was dreadful as we had only one small stove. A pail of water would freeze solid in the night and so would the bread. There was one small store, but the storekeeper never got in enough flour in the fall to do until spring breakup, so we had to live on potatoes and salt pork for six weeks. Then a neighbour managed to get a bag of flour. He brought it 24 miles and all the neighbours got a few pounds, my that bread tasted good. The next year we got a cow and some hens and conditions began to improve. There was not a horse in the place, but one man had a yoke of oxen. He put in our crops with a grub-hoe and cut wild hay for cow feed, and had to carry it all to stack it. At last we got a school and a man preached from house to house. What I missed most were books, but soon we had a Sunday school and someone in the city sent us a library and that was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me."

Photo left: **Cheap Cash Store located at Ashdown Corners, photo taken approximately 1869. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RS042.**

The first school at Ashdown Corners was of a private nature and was situated just north of the corner on the west side of the road. There Mrs. Rickard, (Georgina Dawson, later Mrs. Harry Sirett), made the first attempt to conduct an organized school around 1870-73. As the population increased a school was built near the present Union Cemetery.

Photo above: **The first hotel, photo taken approximately 1869-70. Names of people in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR092.**

Around the same period of time a Mr. Dick Irwin built the first hotel at Ashdown Corners. It was destroyed by fire and Mr. Ashdown built the second hotel which was in operation for a number of years. There was also a Loyal Orange Lodge at the Corner.

The following is from the Parry Sound North Star, June 11th, 1896:

The Ashdown Cheese Factory now in thorough working order, having turned out for the month of May about 2800 lbs of cheese, which have been shipped to Toronto and other markets. At the present time the milk received at the factory has considerably increased, receiving about 2200 lbs. daily. The Cheese Factory was built about 1893 by a Mr. Mills and Mr. A. Anderson and in 1894 they won a bronze medal for their cheese in England and her colonies.

Photo above: **The Cheese Factory at Ashdown Corners. Names of people in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RI072.**

Copy of an account written by Mr. Charles K. Beley, January 1949:

The Ashdowns came in the spring of 1868, and bought a quarter of an acre of land from my father. Soon after that James Ashdown built a General Store and did a good business. His son William went up to the Township of Spence and started a store about seven or eight miles south of Magnetawan on the Nipissing Road. He did a good business with the settlers, trappers and Indians, for some years until his father's health failed, then he came back and took over his father's business.

The first hotel at Ashdown was built by a man named Dick Irwin, who was there only a few years, when it burned down and he moved up the Nipissing Road to Dufferin Bridge, and opened up a hotel there. Shortly after that happened, James Ashdown built on the same corner and did a good business. Mrs. Ashdown was a good hostess and housekeeper.

George Brown took over the store business from William Ashdown who moved to Rosseau.

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Sowden Beley as well as Mrs. Lucy Beley's brother Mr. Thomas L. Dawson came to Canada in 1867. Mr. Benjamin S. Beley took up land at Ashdown Corners. As well as clearing land and building a house, he ran a store for one year. About 1876-77 he bought 25 acres from Mr. Albert Williams in what is now part of Block L in the Village of Rosseau. Work began on clearing the property and a large house was started. In July 1878, he and his family of five moved into the house. A great deal of work was still left to be done, including clearing more land on the property for farming. Mr. Benjamin S. Beley was a keen gardener, so land had to be prepared. A large dock was built in the bay at which the steamboats could dock. Here cords of wood were piled for the steamboats.

Mr. Benjamin S. Beley was keenly interested in all local events, and took an active part in the school, church, council, etc.. Mr. Benjamin S. Beley died in 1896 at which time his oldest son, Mr. Charles K. Beley carried on with the farm, which by then was much larger, until his death in 1949. Mr. Charles K. Beley's son Mr. Oliver Beley ran the farm until 1958.

Picture above: **Ferncliffe, the Beley home, a reproduction from an early painting. Photo of painting courtesy of Amy (Beley) Jackson. RF007.**

Immigration Building

While immigration was a matter for the Dominion Government which had appointed Immigration Agents in Muskoka & Parry Sound, it appears to have been left to the Ontario Department to provide some form of accommodation for those newly arrived in the region. This was done in cooperation with the Agents and the buildings completed in that year were in Gravenhurst for $483, and in Rosseau, Mr. William J. Sirett was the successful bidder at $470. The largest known group to use the shelter were 115 Icelanders, who arrived August 30th, 1873. In the archives in Iceland is a detailed account of their journey, and of their search for suitable land. It also tells how the men and bigger boys slept outdoors, since the building could not accommodate such a large number of people.

Only a very few did settle in the area, and that was along the Rosseau River in what was eventually to become the Icelandic settlement of Hekkla. Apparently the Immigration building was no longer in use after 1880. Mr. Henry Ditchburn purchased the building and rented it as a summer cottage. He changed the name to Bay Point. After the Eatons bought the property this building was torn down.

Painting above: **The Immigration Building on Rosseau Bay, property now owned by Rosseau Lake College. Painting by G. Bruenech. RV001.**

Photo above: **This is quite probably one of the earliest photos ever taken of Rosseau Bay and could be in the era 1872-73. Both photos courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RL007 (above).**

From the description of the photo to the right are the warehouses and docks, so we can only assume it was at the beginning of the steamboat era. It was in the early summer of 1871 when the locks were completed at Port Carling and in so doing made the water of Lakes Rosseau and Joseph navigable to the larger steamers. The house on the hill was built by Mr. Robert Shuttleworth, a carpenter, who also built the warehouses and managed them. This is the only building still in existence in 1999. Mr. Shuttleworth paid the township $1 per year for use of the land on the lakeshore where his warehouses stood. The two storey frame building in the foreground was built in 1871 by a Mr. Cooper who had bought the land in 1869. Looking closely, you will see beside the frame building a small log shanty which the first land owner, Mr. John Beal had built. Mr. Cooper built the frame building for a staging hotel and the stable to the left of the log cabin, where horses or oxen could be sheltered.

May 29th,1883, By-Law from the minutes of the Humphrey Township Council:

That lot number 18 on the west side of Parry Sound Road in the Townplot of Helmsley in the Township of Humphrey and premises thereon, (Reserving half a chain more or less of said lot on the north side already deeded to Richard Haighton) be purchased for the use of this corporation as a Township Hall for the sum of ($375) Three Hundred and Seventy Five Dollars. That the Township Hall be used for the Humphrey and Cardwell Agricultural Society Fall Fair.

Photo above: **This photo could be the Fair day or Victoria Day celebration in 1889 when the Citizen's Band from Bracebridge came to Rosseau on the steamer Kenozha. The building in the foreground once faced Parry Sound Road. The building is now used as Coldwell Banker S.W.E. Heritage Real Estate Office and an Antique Shop at the corner of Victoria Street and Hwy 141. Notice the burnt hills in the background. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RV008.**

There was a sawmill on Water Street at an early date. Evidently this original mill did not continue in operation for too many years. There were a succession of owners and/or operators, Dixon, Knechtel, McBride, Porter, and Young (these names not necessarily in their proper order). Mr. Joseph Dixon was also the lighthouse keeper and the constable. Miss Florrie Dixon, daughter of Joseph Dixon, at one time was mentioned in the newspaper as the only woman lighthouse keeper in Ontario.

On October 20th, 1901 the Township leased to Knechtel and Young, part of Water Street, and water frontage for the purpose of erecting a sawmill, woodworking establishment, and chopping mill for the term of twenty years. That mill burned in July 1904. A new agreement was made to erect another sawmill to be completed by July 1st, 1905. At one point in time a Mrs. Joe Bartlett ran a laundry in part of the mill. There was also a shingle mill on the lakeshore for a few years, and Mr. Avon Cook operated a machine shop. Mr. Cook built a small steam engine which he used to run the operation of his shop. Mr. Lee Presley of Rosseau told us that Mr. Cook could build most anything you wanted.

The Manor Farm

In 1864, Mr. Edward Clifford squatted on what is known as Pratt's Point. The Helmsley Townplot and the Township of Humphrey were surveyed in 1866. Mr. Clifford sold his squatters rights to Mr. Pratt and he located to Lot 72 Con A of the Township of Humphrey consisting of 100 acres and now part of the Village of Rosseau. Mr. William Robert Atkinson with his wife Margaret and family came to the Village in 1868 from Bruce County and located property in the Village consisting of approximately 4 acres. Mrs. Margaret Atkinson lost her husband in 1885 and married Mr. Edward Clifford in 1887 and she and her family moved into Manor Farm owned by Mr. Clifford. Mr. Clifford passed away in 1896 and the farm became the property of Mr. William James Atkinson and remained in the family until 1950 when it was sold to Mr. Fred Einarson.

The original house on this property was a hand hewn log house, which was framed over the logs in 1900. This house was struck by lightning on March 26th, 1903 but no fire resulted and this building was torn down when Mr. Fergus Mullen bought the property about 1960. The first barns were more or less sheds to shelter a few cattle and a team of horses. In 1890 a framed barn was erected and still stands. In 1919, the phone was installed and was considered a great convenience.

Mr. William James Atkinson passed away in January of 1933. He raised a large number of sheep until the early 1920s when he had to sell them on account of many losses due to dogs and wolves. His sons, George and Ardell became owners in 1934. They had hydro and a pasturizing plant installed. The Manor Farm had been selling milk for years but a law in 1934 demanded all milk for sale be pasturized. The Manor Farm Dairy continued until 1942 when Windermere Dairy bought their pasturizing plant. Mr. Robert H. Atkinson operated the farm from 1942 until 1950, it was a general farm, with mixed crops and livestock.

Photo above: **Outside the Post Office after the Fall Fair about 1945.** Left to right, standing: **Shorty Ariss, Bob Atkinson** and **Bernice Watkinson.** Sitting: **Connie Atkinson, Sandra Parker** (child) and **Ruth Holton. RP401.**

Photo above: **Returning from the September 1946 Fall Fair. Connie and Bert Atkinson are driving by Mr. Harvey Ariss's house. RP562.**

Photo left, left to right: **Helen (Atkinson) Darlington and Jessie Spooner with the Atkinson's horses outside the Manor Farm. The house is in the background, and the barn is located in the foreground to the right (not in the photo). RP563.**

Photos courtesy of Helen (Atkinson) Darlington.

The Police Village of Rosseau

In the year 1922, the small Village of Rosseau, in the Township of Humphrey became a Police Village which in Ontario was defined as "an unincorporated Village adminstered by a Board of Trustees,." giving this portion of the Municipality certain powers to make improvements. On June 1st, 1922, in the Town Hall, the first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held. *"This meeting was held as directed by the Ontario Railway Board & Municipal Board, relating to the erection of said Police Village of Rosseau and election of Trustees."* The first Trustees were:

Hudson L. Webster
James K. Brown
Vigfus Einarson
Mr. A. A. Young, Secretary
Charles Raymond, Auditor

The first Policeman was Frederick Bishton; Roads Commissioner was Joseph Size and Pound Keeper was Tom Ariss. The first by-law drawn up stated that stock be prohibited from running at large.

There were seven meetings held in 1922 and only three held in 1923. The Trustees for the Police Village were:

James K. Brown, prop General Store
Vigfus Einarson, prop Bide-A-Wee (Redwood Hotel)
James Ariss

In the winter of 1924, a man with his team of horses was paid $0.50 per hour to snowplough the Village streets with a wooden one wing plough. In 1926, the rate for snowploughing was raised to $0.75 per hour. During the Depression years of the 30s, the rate dropped below either of the above mentioned rates. This method of snowploughing the Village streets continued until the mid 1940s when a change was made to truck and plough.

A motion from the Trustees meeting of December 7th, 1925: *"That $150 be paid to John Knowles towards paying lawyers fees for Village incorporation."* A motion of March 1926: "*That James K. Brown and John Knowles be sent to Toronto to represent the Police Village of Rosseau in regards to the incorporation business."*

Photo above: **Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Bishton of the sawmill with their first child, Bennie. Frederick Bishton was the first Village policeman. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RP0052.**

The Village of Rosseau

On April 8th, 1926, an Act of Parliament was passed incorporating the Village of Rosseau. The first meeting of the newly incorporated Village was held on May 17th, 1926 in The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. Those elected were:

John Knowles, Reeve
Fred T. Einarson, Councillor
Glen Ashdown, Councillor
R. James Ariss, Councillor
Alex F. McGary, Councillor
A. R. Foote, Clerk Treasurer
Lee Presley, Constable & Sanitary Inspector
A. W. Clubbe, Roads Commissioner

The Clerk was asked to write to the Council of Humphrey Township and arrange for a meeting with a view to a settlement of the assets and liabilities between Humphrey Township and the Corporation of the Village of Rosseau, and further ask for a copy of all by-laws affecting the Village. In October of that year an agreement re: adjustment of assets and liabilities was signed and sealed by the Reeve and Clerk and forwarded to the Registry Office for registration.

Postcard above: **Rosseau looking down Hwy 141 from the corner of Rice Street and Hwy 141. Postcard courtesy of Rosseau Historical Society. RV012.**

To obtain a building permit in 1926, it cost the individual $0.25. Mr. Charles Raymond was elected or appointed Secretary/Treasurer in January 1927, a position he held for forty-seven years. Also that year, Mr. W. Galbraith, P.L.S. was authorized to prepare a plan of the Village to be filed with the District Registry Office. Mr. A. R. Foote became the first Village assessor in January 1927. A motion was made stating: *"That the Village council pay $25 (twenty-five dollars) to the community hall managing committee for the use of the hall,"* and Mr. R. J. Ariss to purchase a suitable flag and pole and erect it in front of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall.

On April 2nd, 1928, Mr. Glen Ashdown was given permission to place a gas tank underground at the Marina on Water Street. Also the same permission was given to Mr. James Brown in front of the General Store and Mr. George Atkinson on the Parry Sound Road.

There was a motion to raise by debentures $1,300 to re-roof The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. The first roof being tiled did not endure the winter weather.

In March, 1930, the Council undertook to put up 25 street lights. In 1931, a building permit was granted to Mr. John Knowles who built the first Service Station on the corner of his lot at Cardwell and Parry Sound Roads, now the site of the G&G gas pumps. In June 1932, permits were granted to Mr. Jim Wood for a Service Station and Mr. P. Martin Chapman for a garage, now the L.C.B.O. Parking area.

In 1935, the Village Council along with Cardwell & Humphrey Townships, signed a petition to have the Parry Sound Road kept open during the winter from Hwy 11 to Parry Sound.

Photo left: **The winter streets of Rosseau. Man on sled is Arthur J. Ariss. Person in background is unknown. Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. RP564.**

Photo left: **On the left is Raymond's Hotel & Raymond's Bar. The next building is probably the barn & lean-to. Leper's house is centre of the photo, torn down sometime before 1921. In the distance is Fraser's house. Beyond it on the same side of the street stood the Fraser's mill. It was a combination of a sawmill, grist mill & coffin factory. Across the street from the mill was the Brophy House. The Rosseau General Store is on the right of the picture. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RV004.**

In July 1936, the Clerk was asked to write for information regarding decent and legal bathing apparel and also as to what constitutes indecent exposure on the streets. The Clerk wrote the head office of the Dominion Bank in March 1942, expressing regret that the branch here is to be closed. The Village account was transferred to the Bank of Nova Scotia in Parry Sound.

The Church of the Redeemer

The Church of the Redeemer, Anglican, is a well known and well loved building by both year round residents and summer visitors. The door has stood open to all, including royalty. Only its history belies its age - 125 years, although its written history goes only to 1952.

In the 1860s the country surrounding what is now known as the Village of Rosseau was beginning to be settled by people of varying backgrounds but facing the same hardships. They were anxious to build a place to worship. The first missionary to arrive was Dr. William Newton in 1871. He had been ordained deacon in 1870 and priest in 1871 of the Church of England. He built a log house "the Hermitage" on Elephant Head point on Lake Rosseau and began his ministry to the settlers, walking miles to lumber camps or homes, or wherever a few gathered.

On March 27th, 1871 he presided over a vestry meeting at which Mr. Pratt, the American owner of "The Rosseau House", offered to give a ¼ lot at 16 West Oak Street, Townplot of Helmsley (now Rosseau) for the purpose of building a church, provided the building was of suitable size and used for Church purposes.

By September 1873 the church was completed, with outside steps and a belfry.

Photo above: **The Anglican Church, 1874. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RC005.**

Photo left: Back row, left to right: **Members of the Woman's Auxiliary (WA): Mrs. Helena Swainson, Mrs. Victorine Einarson, Mrs. Marjorie Jones, Mrs. Rita Grenkie & Denton** (child), **Mrs. Evelyn Frost, Mrs. Mary Allen, Mrs. Kate Raymond,** and **Mrs. Blanche Ariss.** Front row, left to right: **Mrs. Dora Scott, Mrs. Gladys Pepper, Mrs. Elsie Griffith** and **Mrs. Emma Ariss, Molly Griffith. Photo was taken in 1943. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RC053.**

In 1883, Squire Sirett, who had given the cedar logs for the church building, gave two acres of land at the back of his farm, on the brow of a hill overlooking Shadow River valley, for a cemetery. Many of the early settlers and some of their descendants are buried in what is known as "the Old English Cemetery." The rectory was built with a stone foundation using stones given by Mr. William H. Pratt from the foundation of the old "The Rosseau House" and is still in use today.

The first meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary (WA) was held upstairs in the Town Hall, September 13th, 1891. Reverend Gillmor was present. The following officers were elected:

President: *Mrs. Wm. Ditchburn*
Vice President: *Mrs. J. P. Brown*
Treasurer: *Mrs. H. J. Coate*
Secretary: *Mrs. Julia Lawrason*

Photo left: **Anglican Church, notice the lamp post by the front gate. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RC006.**

Photo below: Back row, left to right: **Mrs. Anne Dailey, Mrs. Constance Atkinson, Mrs. Kate Raymond, Mrs. Christabel Skinner, Mrs. Fred T.H. Einarson, Mrs. Gladys Adams, Mrs. Blanche Ariss, Mrs. Joan Holton, Mrs. Emily Wood.** Middle row, left to right: **Mrs. Bernice Pearce, Miss Dorothy E. Coate.** Front row, left to right: **Mrs. Viola Jackson, Mrs. Evelyn Frost, Mrs. Amy (Beley) Jackson** and **Mrs. Mary Allen. Woman's Auxiliary (WA) Meeting, The Church of the Redeemer, 1951-52. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RC047.**

St. Andrew's United Church

In searching the records of St. Andrew's United Church in Rosseau we find a meeting was held at the home of Mr. J. B. Reid, on May 23rd, 1877, when session recommended to the congregation the advisability of providing a place of worship and also to suggest the necessity of appointing a building committee to carry out the same, they being Mr. J. B. Reid, Mr. Lorimer, and Mr. R. H. Styles who were left to their own judgement as to the size and style of the building. With a further motion that a subscription list be opened for the purpose of obtaining funds for the erection of the church and with no fanfare, but much faith, forces were set into motion that were to culminate in the completion of the building itself in 1874 and the interior by the end of 1879. At a meeting held on February 6th, 1884 the building committee let the building of the church porch to Mr. A. Meisenheimer for $40.

On September 7th, 1887 it was decided to build a shed 64 feet in length to accommodate ten teams, timber to be gotten out of the bush and 2500 feet of lumber to be ordered. By 1891 the shed was completed and functioning, as record of the time comment on the frequent occasions when outbursts of wild neighing rent the air during the sermon prompting a red faced master to slip out the door to admonish his misbehaving dobbin.

Photo above: **Photo taken in the 1930s. Presbyterian Church, later the United. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RC007.**

On March 14th, 1900, a motion was passed that steps be taken to build a manse, cost of the building not to exceed $600. A committee was appointed to canvas for funds, power being also granted to the committee to borrow what money was required. The following almost overlooked entry testified to the role that the women played in the church:

January 7th,1903, the Ladies' Aid were asked to give $100 per annum in aid of the church.

When one considers that the minister's salary at that time was $600 and that a limit of $600 had been set as the cost of the new manse and that the $100 per annum was in addition to the women's already significant contribution in way of social evenings, dinners, plays, concerts and other fund-raising activities, some idea of the extent of their role can be truly appreciated.

Mention is made of the first rate performances, much of the credit being due to the Junior U.C.W. or Busy Bees, who during the late twenties and early thirties gave such splendid help. To this day, the U.C.W., though few in number, continues to play a significant role in the life of the church. Concerts and plays have gone the way of the dodo bird but meat pie dinners, socials, bake sales and flea markets still flourish as fund raising activities.

Photo left: This photo was taken at the home of Mrs. Clements. Back row, left to right: **Mrs. Oakes, Mrs. Gus Grenkie, unknown, Mrs. V. Einarson, Mrs. M. Matthews, Winnie Perry, Mrs. Copsey, Mrs. F. Woods, Mrs. J. K. Brown, unknown, Mrs. F. Grenkie, Mrs. Jobbins, Rev. W. J. Copsey.** Front row: **Mrs. Perry, unknown, Mrs. Wilson, unknown, Mrs. A. Shortt,** child seating on knee is **Doreen Shortt, unknown, Mrs. Clements. Photo courtesy of Stella F. (Steele) Grenkie. RC054.**

Photo right, back row, left to right: **Mrs. M. Dixon, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Meisenheimer, Mrs. F. Woods, Mrs. Clements, Mrs. E. Einarson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. F. Grenkie, Mrs. Oaks.**
Middle row: **Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Grenkie, Mrs. Eillis, Mrs. Copsey.**
Front row: **Rev. W.J. Copsey.**
Photo courtesy of Agnes (Crawford) Shortt. RC055.

June 30th, 1915: The Methodist minister from Rosseau and Hekkla be withdrawn and the field worked by the Presbyterian Church.

November 7th, 1917: By Ballot of both congregations, Hekkla Methodist and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches were united.

January 15th, 1925: At Mr. Glen Ashdown's house, voting took place regarding the United Church. The majority being in favour, St. Andrew's became United. In spite of this, the feeling was not unanimous and several families dropped out of St. Andrew's.

1946: Rosseau and Hekkla churches joined the Windermere Charge.

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church was built on the northwest corner of Victoria Street and Oak Street. When it was being built the corner posts held the initials formed by nails of the following ladies:

Mrs. W. Ditchburn, representing the Church of the Redeemer (Anglican)
Mrs. Shuttleworth, representing the Methodist Church
Mrs. Harvie, representing St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Mrs. Jordan, representing the Roman Catholic Church

The main building was torn down and the shed was used by Mr. Harry Jones as a workshop. The shed remains today as a garage for the Rosseau House B&B.

Photo above: **Methodist Church was located at the corner of Victoria Street and Oak Street. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RC001.**

St. Michael's Catholic Church

In the Spring of 1959, Father John P. Hickey of the Bracebridge Parish was given permission to buy about one acre of land from Bert and Arthur Monteith at the junction of Hwy 141 and Short Street. With help of volunteer labour, the old building which was previously used as a butchershop was remodelled and became St. Michael's Church. Bishop Webster came on June 1st, 1961 to bless the Church and hold the official opening. Prior to having a Roman Catholic Church in Rosseau, starting in 1943, Mass was held once a month in the various homes of those of the Roman Catholic Faith. This was mainly during the winter months when travelling was difficult in that period of time.

Photo above: **St. Michael's Church. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RC004.**

The Orange Hall

The following was written by Mr. R. A. (Bert) Atkinson.

In 1870 a number of men who belonged to Orange Lodges in different parts of Canada applied for a warrant to start an Orange Lodge in Rosseau. The warrant was granted and a Lodge was organized with thirty chartered members. Mr. Thomas Scott was Worshipful Master and at that time there were some third generation members in the Lodge. In the fall of 1870, they started to build a Lodge Hall on the property which was then Parry Sound Road, now Highway 141 The labour on the building of the hall was voluntary and the material was purchased from a Mr. Young who had a mill in the Village. The building of the hall was completed in 1871, and was rented as a public hall until 1924 when the present Rosseau Memorial Community Hall was built, and the hall is still used by the Lodge, now over one hundred years old.

In 1970, The Loyal Orange Lodge 538 celebrated its 100th Anniversary in the Village with 35 Lodges in attendance from as far away as Orillia, North Bay, and Walford, which is west of Sudbury. At the time, two members were made Life Members for fifty years service. They were Brother Reg H. Fry and Brother Robert H. Atkinson who was a third generation Orange man and both honoured brethren were past County Masters. The Rosseau Women's Institute and the Legion Auxiliary jointly catered for dinner and supper at their 100th Anniversary, which was greatly appreciated by the Lodge as their restaurant service was very small. An estimated 3,000 people were in the Village that day.

Photo above: **Orange Lodge members off to Bracebridge by boat, July 12th, 1940. In the background are the buildings of Clarence Shaw's Ice Cream Parlor, the Barbershop and Pool Room. Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. RO162.**

Photo right: **The Orange Lodge which is located at #1129 Hwy 141. Photo courtesy of Bert & Connie (Roberts) Atkinson. RM095.**

The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall

Rosseau Memorial Community Hall was opened by the unveiling of the Memorial Tablets placed on the front wall of the building on August 27th, 1924 at 2.30 pm in the presence of a large crowd of residents and summer visitors. **Reprinted from the Herald Gazette files of 1924.**

Photo left: **Official opening of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, August 1924. Photo courtey of Lee & Hazel (Einarson) Presley. RM089.**

The idea for The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall for the Village began three years prior, when Mr. Clarence Shaw and Rev. Joe Ditchburn talked of a hall larger than the Loyal Orange Lodge, which was often filled to overflowing. If their plans became a reality, the building would be a Memorial Hall to *"the boys from this area who served and died during W.W. I."*

From the Hall Records: The first meeting of the board of management of the Rosseau Memorial Hall was held in the Town Hall (corner of Victoria and 141) on August, 13th, 1921. The first elected officers were:

Dr. Samuel A. Foote, Chairman, Finance & Building Committee
Mr. E. J. Sirett, Secretary, Building Committee
Mr. William Ashdown, Treasurer
Mr. J. S. Ditchburn, Finance Committee
Mr. W. Wright, Finance Committee
Mr. George Jackson, Building Committee
Mr. Alf Clubbe, Building Committee
Mrs. Elizabeth Atkinson, Building Committee

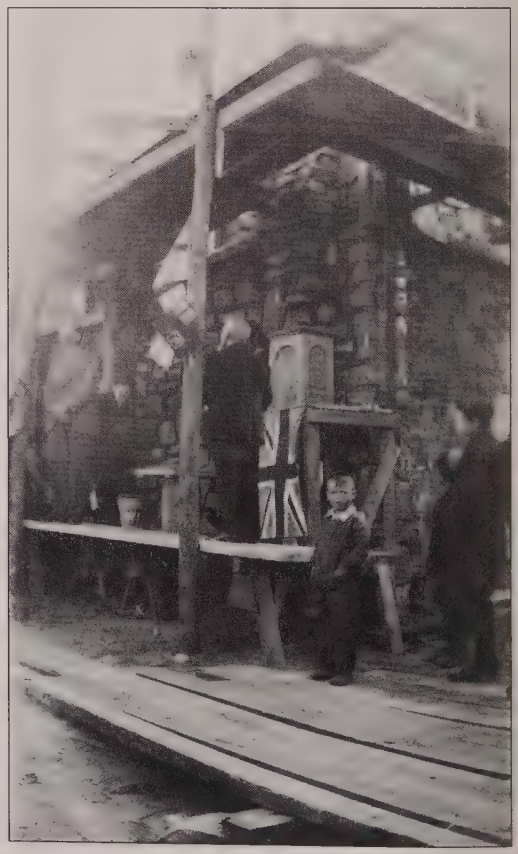


Photo right: **Mr. William Ditchburn laying the cornerstone at the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall in 1923. Dr. Samuel A. Foote is in the background. The names of the children in the photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RM011.**

On September 1921: *That the plans for a hall as submitted by Mr. Stevens, Architect for Sir John Eaton, be approved and adopted.* The motion was moved and carried, and thanks to the two gentlemen who started the project, pledges were gathered for money or labour. At the fourth meeting of management the question came up, which would be the cheaper, a brick or a stone building. It was decided that stone would be more durable but to have concrete instead of stone for the foundation wall. The stone for the building was quarried from cliffs a few miles east down Muskoka Road 3, and was hauled to town by team and wagon, and volunteer labour was used. The cement came by steam boat from Bracebridge. The Stoneman brothers cut all the lumber for the building at their sawmill. On April 27th, 1922, the Hall Committee met with the subscribers to present to them a clear summary of the work done by the Committee. It was moved and carried that as soon as five thousand dollars, (labour not included) be raised that the Committee be authorized to go ahead with the plans. At a meeting held in the Town Hall on August 11th, 1923, a motion was moved and carried that Mr. E. Scat Peterson's tender for stonework for the Hall be accepted at the price of $2,553.

Photo above: **The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall being prepared for the unveiling of the tablets. Names of the people in the photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM003.**

The Hall Committee met on July 19th, 1924, when it was decided that the unveiling of the Memorial Tablet be performed on the day of the opening of the Hall. The Council was asked to move the old Town Hall off the site of the new Hall and also to raise $3,000 and loan to the Committee of the Hall or give the deed of the Hall to the Committee for five years in order that they may raise money to complete the Hall.

The first meeting of the Hall Committee in the new Hall was held on October 19th, 1924. A committee of six members was appointed to ensure that the rules and regulations were carried out. Mr. J. Ariss was the Chairman and the Board members were: Mr. Fred Einarson Sr., Mr. A. McGary, Mr. C. E. Stuart, Mr. V. Einarson, and Mr. J. Brown.

Photo above: **The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall unveiling of the tablets. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM004.**

Photo above: **Citzens of the Village of Rosseau witnessing the unveiling of the tablets. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM006.**

The Hall Committee also set up the following rates for use of the hall:

1. Women's Institute Meeting free of charge.
2. Traveling shows to pay 25% of door receipts.
3. All concerts including one rehearsal $8.00 extra rehearsals at $1.00 each.
4. Sunday School Christmas Tree $5.00 with concert $8.00
5. Private parties $5.00
6. Dances $8.00
7. All public and political meeting with no admission $5.00
8. All annual and directors meetings $1.00

Rosseau Memorial Community Hall Rules & Regulations:

1. That all dancing must stop at 12 pm.
2. No smoking, spitting, profane language or intoxicants permitted in the building.
3. No chewing gum to be deposited on the floor or furnishings of the building.
4. No persons to enter the building under the influence of liquor.
5. No whistling or encores allowed.
6. All public meetings must be orderly
7. At least two members of the committee must be present at every entertainment, dance or other public gathering.
8. Arrangements for use of the hall must be made with the chairman of the special committee.

Mr. V. Einarson was the first caretaker of the Hall at $75 per year. The Hall Committee provided two gas lights for use in the Hall, and the Agricultural Society was asked to provide one for the same purpose.

Photo above: **Inside the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM005.**

The foundation sat open the first winter of 1923-24. The Hall first had a red tile roof. Then in 1929, they put the steel shingles on at the cost of $482.18. The Hall was heated with a wood furnace. The ceiling upstairs was left open to the rafters, then it was closed in 1927. In the summer of 1931, the Hall was wired for electricity at a cost of $328. In June or July of 1951, the washrooms were installed. The first meeting of the Women's Institute was held on August 28th, 1924. In 1934 the Women's Institute paid 50% of the cost of the first sink in the kitchen.

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 8th, 1949 at the Rosseau Community Memorial Hall, a bronze tablet bearing the names of the men of the Village of Rosseau and the Townships of Cardwell and Humphrey who fell in the two World Wars, and a scroll bearing the names of those from the same municipalities who served in these wars were unveiled and dedicated.

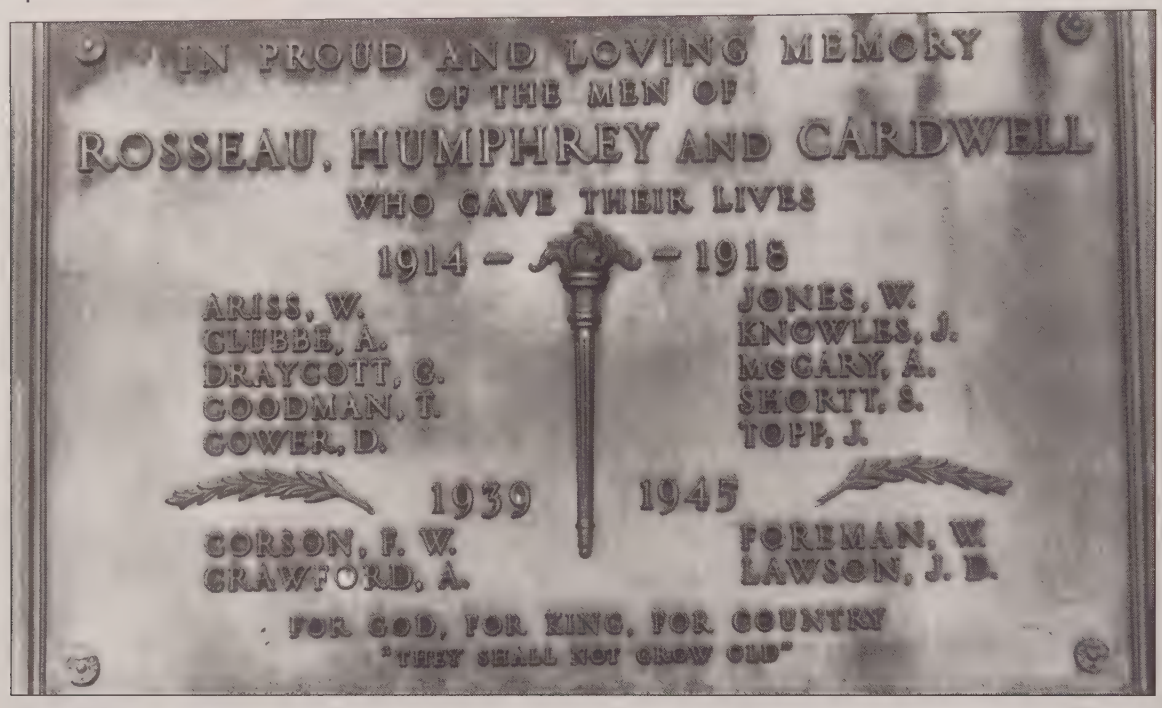


Photo above: **Bronze plaque listing the men who died in action in both World Wars. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM002.**

1914 - 1918 + Killed in Action
For King & Country - Rosseau, Humphrey and Cardwell

Anderson, Manley
Ariss, Frederick
Ariss, Thomas *"Tom"* James
+Ariss, William *"Bill"* Henry
Beirness, Thomas
Beley, Charles Maxwell
Bissonette, Joseph *"Joe" "Chippy"* Prosper
Campbell, Edward Grant
Clements, William John Roscoe *"Ross"*
+Clubbe, Alfred Henry
Coate, Frederick William
Cook, Avon Augustus
Cook, Harold Langley
Cousins, Edward
Crawford, John *"Jack"* Jr.
Crawford, Matthew
Crawford, Robert *"Bob"*
Crawford, Robert Edward
Crawford, Thomas *"Tom"*
Crowder, Roderick Scheels
Cryer, John
Cubitt, William Thomas
Ditchburn, Joseph *"Joe"* Seymour
Dixon, Arthur Wellington
Dixon, Richard
+Draycott, George Valentine
Duby, Joseph
Einarson, Einar
Emerson, Jeremiah Francis *"Frank"*
Emes, Charles John Joseph
Fleming, Gordon Russell
Foote, Clarence Everett
Foote, George Edward
Foote, Walter Samuel
Fry, Albert *"Bert"* Alexander
Godrey, Thomas *"Tom"*
Goodman, Gordon Edward
Goodman, Herbert James
+Goodman, Thomas
+Gower, David *"Dave"*
Grenke, Emil
Grenke, Ernest Guss
Guilliat, Thomas *"Tom"* William
Hall, George Gregory
Hall, John Arthur Alfonso
Hatherley, Eldred
Hatherley, Harry
Hatherley, Henry Cecil
Hatherley, Norman
Hatherley, Wilfred
Hatherley, William Hector
Helmkay, Charles Colin Albert
Helmkay, Francis William Archibald *"Archie"*
Huffman, James Edward
Huffman, John Patrick
Irwin, Roland *"Rollie"*
Jackson, Hugh Mays
Jackson, James Ruxton
Jeanmarie, Arthur Archibald
Jeanmarie, Prosper
Jones, John *"Jack"* Edward
+Jones, Thomas *"Tom"* William
+Knowles, John *"Jack"* Albert
Lambert, Norman Alexander
Lawson, Frank Sr.
Lawson, John *"Jack"* Martin
+McGary, Alexander James
McGary, Walter
Meisenheimer, Arthur John
Meisenheimer, Embert
Merrick, William Alyoyisus
Middlebrook, Harper Jr.
Morden, Walter John
Murfitt, Albert Edward
Myers, Charles *"Charlie"* Edwin
Myers, William Frederick
Peelar, Franklin
Pepper, Robin
Presley, Charles Murvin
Presley, Wilfred Lee
Rankin, David Cosby
Rankin, William Finley
Rivers, Thomas *"Tom"* George
Ruxton, James
Schillemore, Arthur Henry
Shaw, Victor Laurier Mowat
+Shortt, Earl Stanley
Size, Joseph Henry
Smith, John Thomas *"Tom"*
Stoneman, Elgin Cecil
Taylor, Hilton B.
Todd, Herbert Wilson
Topp, Charles Beresford
+Topp, John *"Jack"* Ussher Sowden
Turner, Arthur
Turner, Harry
Wager, W.
Webster, Thomas *"Tom"* Albert J.
West, Walter Augustus
Wilson, Allan Reid
Wilson, Henry Reid
Wilson, Thomas *"Tom"* Galbraith
Wolfe, George Jacob
Wood, Frank Sr.
Young, Richard Fleming

Photos above: **Scrolls bearing the names of those who served in both World Wars. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RM0016.**

The lists on pages 28 and 29 of this book record the names of the men and women who served in World Wars I & II. In reprinting this book a third time in 2006 we have updated the lists to match the people named on pages 107 to 115 of our 2nd book **Rosseau: Then and Now.** The women who served in WW II are listed by their maiden names with their married names highlighted in bold print. Note: The name of +Harker, Kenneth Alvin Michael was missed in our 2nd book.

1939 - 1945 + Killed in Action
For King & Country - Rosseau, Humphrey and Cardwell

Ariss, Stanley Thomas
Atkinson, William Ardell
Atkinson, Frederick James
Barrett, Jim *"Jimmie"*
Beirness, Edgar Allan
Beley, Lloyd George
Bissonette, Clarence *"Frenchie"* William
Bissonette, Duncan Charles Peter Jr.
Bissonette, Francis *"Web"* Aubrey
Blanchard, James *"Jim"* Edward
Blanchard, Robert *"Bob"*
Brennan, Samuel
Campbell, Edward Grant
Campbell, Ronald Grant
Chapman, Ralph
Chapman, Sidney
Coate, Frederick William Jr.
+Corson, Frank William
Crawford, Ardell Campbell
+Crawford, Gerald Armond
Crawford, John *"Jackie"*
Crawford, Robert *"Bob"* Alexander
Crawford, Stanley Albert
Cronin, Patrick
Cryer, Nina
Dixon, Bernard
Dixon, Lorne Charles
Downey, R.
Draycott, Albert
Earnshaw, Herman
Earnshaw, Kenny
Earnshaw, Thelma Joanna Jane
Einarson, Alvin *"Bill"*
Einarson, Ben
Einarson, Dawson Wray
+Einarson, Ivan Paul
Einarson, Lloyd
Finnson, Einar
+Foreman, Walter William
Fountain, W. *"Bud"*
Fraser, Allan
Fraser, Charles *"Charlie"* Robert
Fraser, William *"Bill"* Alfred
Frost, Allan Edward
Fry, Ronald *"Ronnie"* Albert
Gates, Ellis Gordon
Grenkie, Vernon
Hamer, Charles Stanley Murray
Hamer, John Willis
Hamer, William Douglas Frederick
Harker, Ernie E.
+Harker, Kenneth Alvin Michael
Hatherley, Henry Cecil
Hatherley, Jim Adams
Hatherley, Margaret **Brown/Heathfield**
Helmkay, Francis William Archibald *"Archie"*
Hicks, Adrian Alfred
Holton, Edwin
Holton, John William Richard
Huffman, Gerald F.
Jackson, John Milton
Kingshott, Ross
Lashbrook, Charles *"Charlie"* Alexander
Lashbrook, Clifford Ross
Lashbrook, Richard *"Dick"* Arthur
Lashbrook, Thomas *"Tom"* Arnold
+Lawson, John *"Jack"* David
Lee, Thomas *"Tom"*
MacNaughton, Joe
Mahon, Blake
Mahon, James *"Jim"* Henry
Meek, Bernard *"Barney"* Deveraux
Meisenheimer, William Embert *"Bert"*
Merrick, Julia **Fraser**
Middlebrook, Cecil George
Morden, Edmond Albert
Morden, Walter John
Nowak, Elroy Edward
Nowak, Irvin Gilbert
O'Biern, Edward *"Ted"*
Olsen, Edith **Smith**
Pepper, Donald Thomas
Rankin, Robert *"Bob"* James
Rankin, William John *"Johnie"* Sr.
Rivers, Thomas *"Tom"* George
Ross, Allen Ewan
Schillemore, Arthur A. Jr.
Schillemore, George
Schillemore, William *"Bill"*
Scott, Alvin
Shaw, Clifford Findlay
Shortt, Jessie Helen **Wigston**
Smith, Charles *"Charlie"* Duncan
Smith, Gerald *"Gerry"*
Smith, Glenwood Albert
Steele, William *"Bud"* Joseph
Stewart, Leah **Hamer**
Stoneman, Richard *"Dick"* Foch William
Swainson, Robert *"Bob"* William
Thompson, Peter *"Bud"* L.
Topp, Charles Beresford
West, John *"Jack"*
Westover, Cecil David
Westover, Charles Vincent (C.V.) *"Chuck"*
Westover, Reginald A.
Wilson, Laura Nadine **Hunziger**
Wilson, George Leslie
Wilson, Marian Kathleen **Kosowan**
Wilson, Matthew Mackenzie William *"Bill"*
Wilson, Robert Bruce
Wilson, William John McKay
Wood, Albert
Wood, Charles *"Charlie"* Henry
Wood, Edgar
Wood, Frank T.
Wood, James *"Jim"* Thomas

Bayview

This was a small summer resort owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bartlett. It accommodated 15 to 20 guests. It stood on the east side of Highway 141, on the hill overlooking Rosseau Bay. Mrs. Morris was the next owner. The building burned in 1932.

Photo above: **We can identify two of the people in the photo.** Back row, left to right, 2nd lady is **Mrs. Bartlett.** Front row, left to right, man on far right is **Mr. Morris.** Notice the ghost like image of the lady sitting behind **Mr. Morris. Photo courtesy of George Pogson. HR002.**

Photo right: **Photo of Bayview was taken in the 1920s. Notice the sign on the left gate post. It reads: Telegraph & Cable Office. Photo courtesy of George Pogson. HR001.**

1st Bide-A-Wee

The present Bell Telephone office (#4 Rice Street) sits on land approximately where this building stood. At one time part of the building was used for a bakeshop, ice cream parlour & store and latterly a rooming house.

Photo above: **Bjarni Finnson in front of the Bide-A-Wee. Photo courtesy of Isabel (Einarson) Gordon. HR003.**

Photo above: **Bide-A-Wee to the left of the photo. The Church of the Redeemer is in the middle of the photo in the background. Photo courtesy of Isabel (Einarson) Gordon. HR004.**

The following was an advertisement placed by Mr. E. A. Draycott in the North Star on June 11th, 1896:

> *A full and complete stock of groceries always on hand. Fresh butter, eggs and grain taken in trade. Sales agent for Salada Tea.*

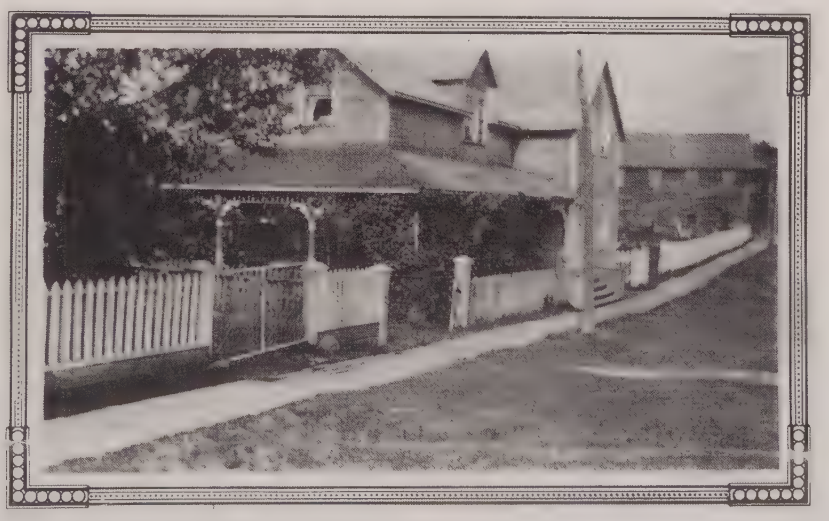


Photo right: **Bide-A-Wee in the foreground. The building in the far right corner is the Hilltop. Photo is courtesy of Isabel (Einarson) Gordon. HR094.**

NOTE: Bide-A-Wee means "stay awhile" in Icelandic.

When Mr. Vigfus Einarson bought the property, he operated a rooming house which he named Bide-A-Wee. After a short time, the Einarsons moved to the site of the present day Redwood Hotel. The former Bide-A-Wee which had been used as a rooming house burned in 1932, having been left vacant for a time. Prior to the fire, Mr. Fred Shuttleworth, a dentist from Bracebridge, rented a room there during the summer and set up a practice. At the time of the fire, Mr. George Atkinson had coffins stored in the building, and nothing was saved.

The Canadian Inn

Mr. Ross Meads, proprietor purchased the land from Mr. Arthur Monteith. The Inn was built by Mr. Meads in 1920. It was opened for business in the summer months only, meaning spring till early autumn. During the winter the Meads family lived in a cottage nearby.

The following are a list of rates to stay at the Inn, in those days of long ago:

Per day $2.50
Weekly - Front Rooms:
Single - $16.00 Double - $15.00
Twin Beds - $16.00

Weekly - Back Rooms:
Single - $15.00 Double - $14.00
Twin Beds - $15.00

All rates include meals.
Meals are $0.50 each

In 1950, Mr. & Mrs. Meads sold their property to Miss Mawhinny of Toronto. Two other parties were the owners for a short time. Miss Cohen sold the property to Mr. Gordon Begg in 1954. The building located on Lake Rosseau in front of King Street just east of the Retreat was destroyed by fire on February 18th, 1956.

Photo above: **The Canadian Inn. Photo courtesy of Bill & Bernice (Elly/Jobbins) Gates. HR009.**

Glenburnie or Reykjavik

This house was built by the Gudnason family, who were, as the name implies Icelandic. It stood on the hillside in what is now the Glenburnie Estates. Two sisters, Freda & Kristina Gudnason operated a summer tourist business. In 1913, Freda married Mr. James K. Brown and they continued to live at Glenburnie for eight years. Shortly after, Mr. Brown bought what is now the Rosseau General Store, and he moved the family to the living quarters there.

Photo above: **Photo taken of Glenburnie around 1900. Photo courtesy of Agnes (Crawford) Shortt. HR095.**

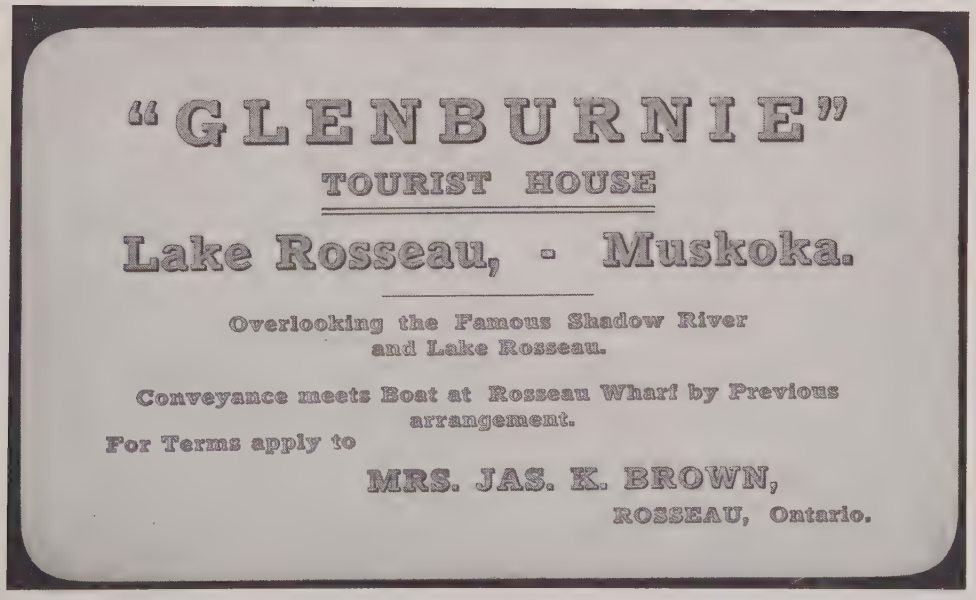

"GLENBURNIE"
TOURIST HOUSE
Lake Rosseau, - Muskoka.
Overlooking the Famous Shadow River and Lake Rosseau.
Conveyance meets Boat at Rosseau Wharf by Previous arrangement.
For Terms apply to
MRS. JAS. K. BROWN,
ROSSEAU, Ontario.

Photo right: **Business Card for Glenburnie. Courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR010.**

After the Gudnason-Browns moved, Glenburnie never again was operated as a tourist resort. One family rented part of the building for a short period of time. The house was never lived in again, although it stayed in the ownership of the Brown family, and was torn down in the 1960s.

Kawandag

Mr. Henry Ditchburn was the first landowner of the property which was to become known as the Pines, Kawandag and finally Rosseau Lake College. The Immigrant shed was situated on a section of this land and Mr. Ditchburn later rented it as a summer cottage. In 1906, Mr. John and Mrs. Flora Eaton purchased about four acres which included the Pines home of Mr. Henry Ditchburn. Mr. Henry Ditchburn died in March of 1912, and he had just previously sold the remaining property to Mr. John Monteith who in turn sold to the Eatons. It was then that the property became known as Kawandag. It was not too long before the property became a land mark on Lake Rosseau, with a magnificent main house with white pillars and beautiful gardens. Mr. Eaton became Sir John Eaton in 1915 and seven years later he died, but Lady Eaton and her family continued to use Kawandag as a seasonal home until the property was sold in 1945. The first owners were Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Bartel who sold in the spring of 1949 to Mr. & Mrs. Margesson & Mr. & Mrs. Brown. During the next 17 years various owners attempted to operate Kawandag as a summer resort.

Photo above: **Photo of Main House at Kawandag. Unfortunately the building burnt down on January 30th, 1973. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR014.**

Photo right: **First car ever to come to Rosseau was owned by Sir John Eaton. It was a "Packard". Photo was taken in 1905. Notice the condition of the road !! We believe the man on the right is Sir John Eaton. The names of the other men in the photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Evelyn (Ariss) Holton/Hoare. HR018.**

Monteith House

The Rosseau House or Pratt's Hotel will always be regarded in history as the first hotel on the Muskoka Lakes, and one which gained almost instant fame and popularity. Prior to this, a small log shanty was built at the foot of the hills overlooking the Rosseau Bay, which was to grow into a widely known summer resort. It was in 1865 or 1866, when a Mr. John Beal obtained the land and built the log shanty, and in 1869 a Mr. Cooper bought the building for a staging hotel and in 1871 built the first frame addition. The next owner was a Mr. John Hutton from Dundee, Scotland who applied for a tavern licence in June 1873. He was succeeded by Mr. Walter B. Ross, who named the business, the Portland House. He sold to a Mr. Langtree and in 1877 & 1878 the tavern licence was issued to a Captain James Kirkland. On August 22nd, 1878, John Monteith, a hotel owner in Barrie bought the business and immediately began to build a larger three storey addition. In 1885, a dance hall was built directly across the street, originally intended to be a rollerskating rink. Sometime in this period, 1886, the three storey north wing was added to the hotel and a tennis court built beside the dance hall. From the minutes of Humphrey Township Council June 27th,1873:

By Law #2, a tavern is defined as: *"a good and comfortable one fit for its intended purpose, and shall contain, in addition to what may be required for the use of the tavern keeper-not less than four bedrooms with a suitable quantity of bedding. Proper stabling for at least six horses. Dining room and barroom for the public which shall be comfortably furnished. Sufficient refreshments regularly kept by the tavern keeper for man and beast stopping at his house."*

And lastly, on the left of the photo is the Shuttleworth house which still stands today.

Photo above: **Monteith House about 1880. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR096.**

Photo above: **The Kirkland's Hotel (1877-1878) was originally Beal's log cabin, seen at left of the two storey building. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR058.**

Mr. Lee Presley, of Rosseau, has told that the lumber for the third addition of the Monteith House was cut at Mr. Alf Clubbe's sawmill on White Oak Creek (now known as Shadow River). The price of lumber at that time was $10 @ TH (a thousand feet). After the Rosseau House was destroyed by fire, Monteith's Hall became one of the focal points for entertainment. Concerts and dances were held there, summer bazaars and exhibits for the Fall Fair were placed there. Mr. E. J. Sirett had described an early Christmas in Rosseau, thus as follows:

"A huge tree, for all the children in the area was set up in the Monteith rink. It was a huge barn of a place, high on posts, intended originally for roller skating and dancing in the summer. It was bitterly cold, though two big box stoves were set up, and excitement helped to keep the children warm. The tree was placed in the centre of the rink, and the children sat around in two circles. As they sat there, they suddenly heard the sound of sleigh bells coming down the hill from the Village. Suddenly the street door opened and down the skaters ramp onto the floor appeared Santa Claus in a little cutter, driving before him six prancing reindeer. There were six of the larger boys dressed as reindeer, hung with sleigh bells and antlers fastened on their heads. What a thrill for the children as Santa and his party circled round the Christmas tree."

Postcard right: **The Monteith House. Postcard courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR097.**

Photo above: **The Lobby of the Monteith Hotel. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. HR042.**

Although Mr. Monteith was twice married, it was his two sons from his first marriage, Arthur and Bert who put their heart and soul into building up the hotel business. There was also a son George and a daughter Florence (Mrs. Abbs). The Monteiths owned considerable land in the Village. One tract was the former Alexander farm, bordered on the south side of the Parry Sound Road (Hwy 141 and McCarthy Street). In the early years of the hotel, this land was used to cut hay, and to feed their horses and cattle kept in the stables at the rear of the hotel. In later years, possibly after Mr. Monteith's death in 1902, this land was made into a 9 hole golf course, with one club house. They were also in the wholesale/retail butcher business and during that time Muskoka lamb was always an item on menus of better class dining establishments. In the early 1900s a Mr. John G. Strathdee, a musician and entertainer was employed at the hotel. He wrote the words and music of the songs "Rosseau Town" and "Rosseau Town Goodbye". These songs quickly gained popularity and were sung when the folks gathered on the dock to see steamers arriving or leaving.

Rosseau Town
words and music by
John G. Strathdee
Copyright, 1911

1st Verse:	With the first early breath of summer comes the call of the North so strong. There's a little town call'd Rosseau, and its there that I belong. I can see the lake a gleaming in the sunlight smiling down. Oh you can send my mail; I'll hit the trail for that dear little Rosseau Town.
Chorus:	Oh I'll sing a little song of Rosseau; Its the dearest town that I know. Oh you Rosseau, when the summer breezes blow. Where the skies are rarest, and the girls that you meet are fairest. In dear old Rosseau, Its the best town I know.
2nd Verse:	Oh its "Summertime Town" in Rosseau, and "Happy-time Town" as well. Where the boys are all good fellows, and where every girl's a belle. Oh we'll drive away our sorrow, and you wont have time to frown, if you will take my tip and pack your grip for that dear little Rosseau Town.
Chorus, repeat	

The Redwood Hotel

This structure began in the mid to late 1800s, as a small two storey building where Mr. Joseph Dixon lived and operated a butcher shop. As was the case with most business folk, or some home owners in that period of time, a stable or small barn was situated in the back yard. By the mid 1920's, Vigfus & Etta (Einarson) Einarson and their family were living at Bide-A-Wee, as they called their home. They built up a business operating a rooming house and taking in paying guests. Over the years this building was to have many structural changes. The Einarsons sold in 1936. Major & Mrs. Grant Campbell were the next owners, and they built an addition to the building and opened a beverage room. During their ownership they changed the name to The Campbell House.

Photo above: **On 2nd Bide-A-Wee's verandah are (left to right):** Back row, **Charlie Renshaw, Vigfus Einarson, Elgin Einarson, Miss Thelma Fenwick (Junior Room Teacher Sept 1925 - June 1927).** Middle row, **Reuben Einarson, Grandma Sesselja Einarson, Etta (Einarson) Einarson.** Front row, **Isabel (Einarson) Gordon, Charlotte (Dixon) Martin, Paul Einarson. Photo courtesy of Agnes (Crawford) Shortt. RP565.**

Photo above: **The 2nd Bide-a-Wee. Photo courtesy of Isabel (Einarson) Gordon. HR005.**

Photo above: **The 2nd Bide-a-Wee. Photo courtesy of Isabel (Einarson) Gordon. HR007.**

The Retreat

This was another small summer resort. Mr. John Holton bought from the man who built it, whom we have been unable to identify. Mr. Holton was a furrier and it is believed that Abram Assey II stayed with him as his guide. It has also been told that Abram Assey had a pet beaver with him.

It was Mr. Holton's daughter, Jessie who operated the summer resort business.

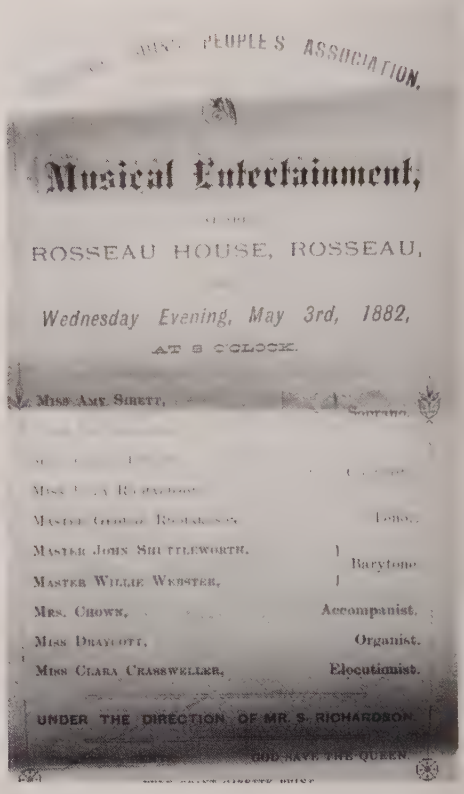
About the year 1929, Mr. F.C.B. Crompton bought the property from Miss Holton's estate and the building was torn down. The building was orginally located at the end of Confederation Street where it reaches King Street overlooking Lake Rosseau.

Photo above: **The Retreat - picture taken in 1890. Names of people in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. HR098.**

The Rosseau House

In 1869, an American, named Mr. William H. Pratt came and bought several Village lots from Mr. Edward Clifford. On May 19th, 1870 he had a "Bee" raising to start building the first summer hotel on the Muskoka Lakes, which he named "The Rosseau House." This was situated on Lot 15 on Ash Street East. The Hotel opened for business July 1st of the same year. Mr. Pratt kept building and improving his business, and the first section built became the dining room which was 26 ft x 60 ft. The kitchen was 26 ft square and the main part of the house was three stories high. It is recorded that Mrs. Pratt was a splendid hostess and house keeper. Their rates were from $2 to $5 per day. They held socials and concerts at the hotel, which usually ended with dancing.

After 13 years of business The Rosseau House burnt down on October 6th, 1883. It was never rebuilt. The Pratts left Rosseau and never returned.



PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION.

Musical Entertainment,

ROSSEAU HOUSE, ROSSEAU,

Wednesday Evening, May 3rd, 1882,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

MISS AMY SHUTT, Soprano.

MASTER JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH, Barytone

MASTER WILLIE WEBSTER, Barytone

MRS. CROWN, Accompanist.

MISS DRAYCOTT, Organist.

MISS CLARA CRASSWELLER, Elocutionist.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. S. RICHARDSON

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Program, right: **Musical Entertainment by the Rosseau Young People's Association for Wednesday, May 3rd, 1882. Program courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. HR050a.**

Photo below: **The Rosseau House, (#18 Rice Street) - Picture taken in the 1870s. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. HR049.**

Photo above:
William H. Pratt. RP566.

Photo above:
Mrs. Lucy H. Pratt. RP567.

— TO —

WILLIAM DITCHBURN, ESQ.,

LAY READER, CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, ROSSEAU, AT THE

ROSSEAU HOUSE,

— ON —

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22nd, 1881.

PROGRAMME.

1. OVERTURE, (Cornets and Piano) .....Mrs. Chowne and Messrs. Ditchburn
2. SONG.....“White Squall,”.....Mr. Arthur Ditchburn
3. DUET.....“When Stars are in their quiet Skies,”.....Miss Draycott and Mr. W. Ditchburn
4. SOLO (Piano-forte).....“La belle Canadienne,”.....Miss Jennie Pratt
5. SONG,.....“Chamouni,”.....Miss Draycott
6. READING.....“Frank Fairleigh’s love letter,”.....Mr. Beley.
7. DUET.....“When night comes o’er the plain,”..Miss Draycott and Miss Sirett
8. SONG,.....“Newfoundland Dog,” (Russel).....Mr. Lawrason
9. SOLO, (Piano-forte).....“La Source,” (Blumenthal).....Mrs. Chowne
10. RECITATION,.....“Spanish Armada,”.....Mr. Percy Brown
11. SONG,.....“Dearest Then I’ll love thee more,”.....Miss Sirett
12. DUET, “The Moon is beaming o’er the Lake,” Miss Draycott & H. Ditchburn
13. SONG,.....“Her bright smile haunts me still,”.....Mr. W. Ditchburn
14. READING.....Mr. John Ditchburn
15. TRIO,.....“Fair Flora,”.....Miss Draycott and Messrs. Ditchburn
16. SONG,.....“Nancy Lee,”.....Mr. Arthur Ditchburn
17. DUET, (Piano forte,)..Love’s Chase Galop,”..Mrs. Chowne and Miss J. Pratt
18. DUET, (Cornet and Piano,).....Mr. H. Ditchburn and Miss Jennie Pratt

INTERMISSION.

WHEN A HANDSOME CAKE WILL BE RAFFLED.

To be followed by the Laughable Farce

“ICI ON PARLE FRANCIAS.”

(FRENCH SPOKEN HERE.)

CHARACTERS:

[illegible] BUTTON,.....MR. JOHN DITCHBURN.
VICTOR DUBOIS,.....MR. PERCY BROWN.
MR. SPRIGGINS,.....MR. HENRY DITCHBURN.
MRS. SPRIGGINS,.....MRS. LAWRASON.
ANGELINA, their Daughter.....MISS DRAYCOTT.
JULIA, wife of Major Button,.....MISS ANDERSON.
ANNA MARIA, a Maid of “All Work,”.....MISS SIRETT.

After which another Splendid Cake will be Raffled.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Program, left: **Another Musical Evening at the Rosseau House on Friday, April 22nd, 1881. HR051.**

Photos on this page courtesy of Amy (Beley) Jackson.

Rossmoyne Inn

This building was erected in 1887, on land belonging to Mr. Benjamin S. Beley. It stood on a rise of ground directly across Rosseau Bay from the Government Docks. It was built to be a summer cottage but became a Guest Inn, operated by Miss Fanita Turner.

It was a three storey building, and there were two large bedrooms in the attic. It could comfortably accommodate sixty guests.

Postcard, right: **Rossmoyne. HR078.**

Postcard, left: **Rossmoyne. HR099.**

Over a span of eighty or so years, the Inn would be operated under four owners Mr. J. M. Beley, Mr. Lloyd Dawson, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ariss, and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Ariss.

In 1970 the property was sold to Mr. Wylie, and the contents of the building were sold at a public auction. Rossmoyne literally went down in history, when in September 1971 it was demolished by a dynamite charge. The land was then subdivided into building lots.

Postcards on this page courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate.

Government Dock

In 1905 at the last session of Parliament, the sum of $2000 was appropriated for the construction of a wharf at the northerly end of Lake Rosseau, and on July 26th, 1905, authority was given to proceed by day labour.

It was decided however to purchase the wharf property belonging to the Anglo-Canadian Leather Company for the sum of $1800. Deeds were prepared, duly executed by the company and forwarded to Ottawa on July 22nd, 1905.

Photo left: **Logs in Rosseau Bay ready to be boomed and towed by scow to the saw mills. Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. RI073.**

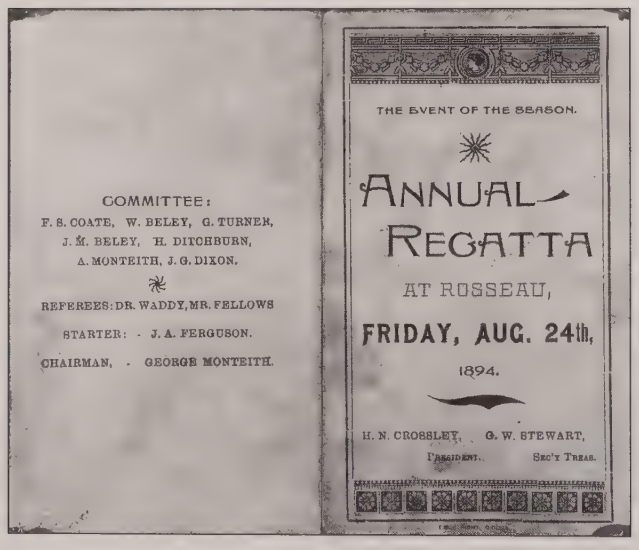
It appears in each subsequent year some form of repairs were done to the wharf and its buildings. One example being on May 7th, 1910, authority was given to expend the sum of $230 on repairs to the warehouses on the government wharf, the work to be done by day labour. Work commenced July 11th and was completed on July 26th. It consisted of reshingling one warehouse and putting a new floor in same, repairing floor and roof of the other building with good shingles and flooring from the first mentioned building and giving all the buildings a coat of paint. On, October 2nd to October 11th, 1911 work was carried out by day labour on the entire rebuilding of warehouses "C", 24 1/2 ft by 46 1/2 ft. Building an additional 16 ft in length to warehouse "B" also a second addition to this warehouse 16 ft by 18 ft making the building in the form of an L. Both buildings were given a coat of paint.

Photo left: **Hockey was an enjoyable recreation activity down at the docks in the winter. Note the two freight sheds in the background. They were torn down in 1956. Photo courtesy of Lyle & Sharon (Atkinson) Fry. RL043.**

Photo above: **A photo of the Rosseau wharf in the early days, with the Monteith House visible in the background and the Freight Shed on the right. Photo from the collection of Arthur Blachford. RL044.**

1912 saw the installation of the "Siche Gas Plant" for the lighting of the wharves and warehouses.

In 1928, the area saw some repairs done to both the south and north wharves, as considerable damage had occurred by the ice shove. At this time the icehouse also underwent repairs.



COMMITTEE:
F. S. COATE, W. BELEY, G. TURNER,
J. M. BELEY, H. DITCHBURN,
A. MONTEITH, J. G. DIXON.

REFEREES: DR. WADDY, MR. FELLOWS

STARTER: - J. A. FERGUSON.

CHAIRMAN, - GEORGE MONTEITH.

THE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

ANNUAL REGATTA

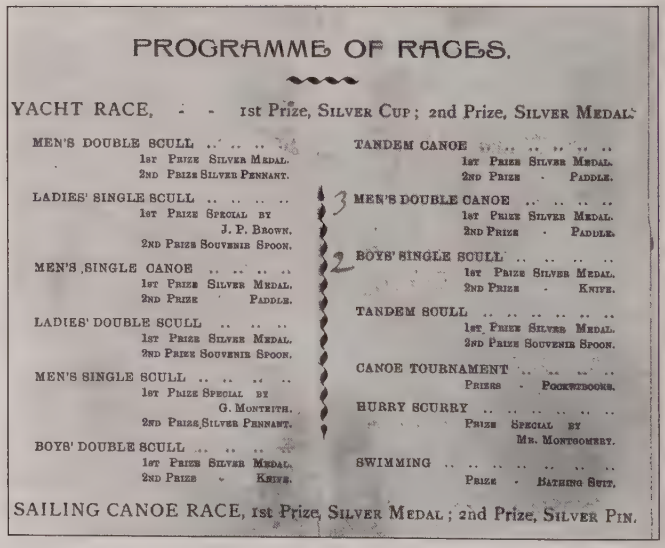
AT ROSSEAU,

FRIDAY, AUG. 24th,

1894.

H. N. CROSSLEY, President. G. W. STEWART, Sec'y Treas.

Photo above: **Front & back cover of the Annual Regatta program for Friday, August 24th, 1894. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RO034a.**



PROGRAMME OF RACES.

YACHT RACE, - - 1st Prize, Silver Cup; 2nd Prize, Silver Medal.

MEN'S DOUBLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize Silver Pennant.

LADIES' SINGLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Special by
J. P. Brown.
2nd Prize Souvenir Spoon.

MEN'S SINGLE CANOE .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize Paddle.

LADIES' DOUBLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize Souvenir Spoon.

MEN'S SINGLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Special by
G. Monteith.
2nd Prize Silver Pennant.

BOYS' DOUBLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize Knife.

TANDEM CANOE .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize - Paddle.

3 MEN'S DOUBLE CANOE .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize - Paddle.

2 BOYS' SINGLE SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize - Knife.

TANDEM SCULL .. ..
1st Prize Silver Medal.
2nd Prize Souvenir Spoon.

CANOE TOURNAMENT .. ..
Prizes - Pocketbooks.

HURRY SCURRY .. ..
Prize Special by
Mr. Montgomery.

SWIMMING .. ..
Prize - Bathing Suit.

SAILING CANOE RACE, 1st Prize, Silver Medal; 2nd Prize, Silver Pin.

Photo above: **Inside of the Annual Regatta program for Friday, August 24th, 1894. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RO034b.**

In 1946 repairs to wharf structures commenced on October 30th and carried on until January 18th, 1947 but were not completed on account of winter conditions. The work accomplished consisted of completely tearing down the two old Freight Sheds and the rebuilding of a shed 30 ft. by 20 ft. with a shelter 10 ft by 20 ft adjoining the outer end of the new shed. The material used was salvaged from the old sheds, only new roofing was used. About 350 cubic yards of sand and stone fill was used to fill depressions in the ground occupied by the old freight sheds. In 1947, the shed and shelter were given two coats of paint and the shelter was wired for electric lights at a cost of $155.53.

On March 26th, 1956 a report was sent to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation to dispose of two buildings at the rear of the public wharf. Crown Assets advised these buildings were sold to Mr. Frank T. Wood, to be removed within 30 days from date of sale. These buildings are still in use as storage sheds at the home of Mrs. Emily Wood.

This information is taken from the official financial history of the Rosseau Wharves held by the Government of Canada, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.

Photo left: **Activities happening during the Regatta. Note steamer on the right. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RO036.**

Photo right: **More fun on the lake. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RO037.**

Marinas

It was a cooperative thought of Mr. William H. Pratt and the Ditchburn brothers, that led Henry Ditchburn to start the Ditchburn boat building business. The Ditchburns rented canoes and rowboats to the guests of Pratt's Hotel. Not having an available building to work in, the upper story of the William Ditchburn home became their workshop. This house is still standing at #13 Oak Street, on the north side of the Church of the Redeemer. At that time there was a verandah on both levels with double doors on the upper, where the boats were taken out and lowered to the ground. By the year 1875, the boat building business was looking prosperous, and the need for larger work space soon became evident. After Pratt's Hotel was destroyed by fire, Mr. William Ditchburn became the Village Post Master. His brothers carried on the boat business and built a two story structure near the main dock in Rosseau where they operated their business. Years later, William's son Herbert expanded his uncle's business to include fine launches, speed boats and yachts for which a factory was built in Gravenhurst, Ontario.

During the winter of 1911, the boatworks building was moved to the site of the present day marina. Those who worked on this project were: Mr. Alfred Clubbe, Mr. Bill Ariss, Mr. Joe Bartlett and Mr. Jim Morris. The headquarters of the Ditchburn boatworks was later situated at Gravenhurst, but the business in Rosseau carried on renting boats for a number of years. Following the Ditchburns, Mr. Thomas Johnston operated the business for a few years until Mr. Glen Ashdown bought it in 1924.

The following is from a letter written by Mr. Glen Ashdown many years ago:

"Thinking of old times in Muskoka brings back many really good memories. Perhaps some of you will recollect the old Hazel II (this was his launch). For one or two summers I ran the Hazel II between Rosseau and Royal Muskoka Hotel to connect with the Sagamo and transported passengers, mail and some small freight. I could never beat the Sagamo when I was loaded with passengers, but could give her a good run when travelling empty."

His launch was frequently used for private excursions, and homeward bound from one of these outings, the lake became rather choppy. One lady suddenly succumbed to motion sickness, and while retching overboard, her false teeth also went. There was much tittering amongst the youngsters on board as they wondered what species of fish would be sporting a set of false teeth. The parents were not amused!

During the winter months, Mr. Ashdown was the editor and publisher of the Rosseau Echo, a small newspaper put out twice monthly. In 1947 he sold the business to Mr. Clarence Swift, and retired to Cobourg, Ontario where his family had resided for many years, only coming to Rosseau for the summer months.

Postcard above: **Old Blacksmith shop and old Boat livery. Postcard courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RL045.**

Clubs & Societies

The following is a list of Clubs, Organizations and Societies, past and present, for the majority of which there are no records.

Agricultural Society
    Stock Improvement Association, Calf Club, Potatoe Club
Anglican Church Women, (A.C.W.) formerly Woman's Auxiliary (W.A.)
    Girls Auxiliary & Little Helpers
Badminton Club
Baseball Teams
Canadian Girls In Training, (C.G.I.T)
The Canadian Red Cross, WW I & WW II
Chamber of Commerce
Community Club (1924 - 1933)
Fire Brigade
500 Club Jr. & Sr.
Great War Veterans Association, (G.W.V.A.) formed after WW I
Home & School Association
Horticulture Society
Independent Order of Foresters, (I.O.F.)
Ladies Aid, changed to United Church Women, (U.C.W.)
    Busy Bees - Jr. Auxiliary
Ladies Whist Club
Lions Club
Loyal Orange Lodge
Rosseau Community Association
Rosseau Recreation Committee
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 289 & Legion Auxiliary
    Boy Scouts, Ladders
Settlers Association - to give reliable and useful information to intending settlers.
Sons of England
Soft Shoe Swing Along Club
Sunshine Snowshoe & Skating Club
Teen Town
Trail Rangers: 80 years ago planted the Maple trees in the Village of Rosseau.
Women's Institute, (W.I.)
    4 H Club
Young Britains

Rosseau Agricultural Society

The Rosseau Agricultural Society was organized in 1875 and it is unfortunate that the records for the first twenty-three years appear to have been lost. One of the early pioneers of Cardwell Township, Mr. F. W. Coate kept a diary from which can be established that the first Fall Fair was held on October 1st, 1875. We do not know where it was held or what the exhibits consisted of.

A By Law of Humphrey Township of May 1883 reads as follows: *That lot #18 on the west side of the Parry Sound Road in the Townplot of Helmsley in the Township of Humphrey and premises there on (reserving half a chain more or less of said lot on the north side already deeded to Richard Haighton) be purchased for the use of this Corporation as a Township Hall, for the sum of $375. Also that the Township Hall be used for the Humphrey and Cardwell Agricultural Fall Show.*

In 1907, the name was changed to Rosseau Agricultural Society, open to Humphrey, Cardwell, Watt and Christie Townships. The earliest exhibits were mainly livestock and produce. There were few classes for women, and only local fruits were allowed for preserves, jams and jellies. After the purchase of the Town Hall, the livestock exhibits were held there and the baking and dry goods were still held at the Monteith Hall. Originally, entering, judging and viewing was held on the same day and for a few years it was a three day fair. In 1933, due to financial difficulties it was changed to two days, where it has remained over the years. The early Fairs were held the last week in September, although in 1882 and 1883, October 10th was fair day.

The entertainment held on Fair days of the past, consisted of ploughing matches, horseshoe pitching, baseball games, tug of war and the ever popular log sawing, which is still held today. Added to the entertainment list in 1918 was dancing in the evening.

Photo above: **Humphrey Township Hall at #1142 Hwy 141. Names of children in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Evelyn (Barber) Frost. RM089.**

Photo right: **The first exhibition hall that was built in 1915 and collapsed on March 2nd, 1979. Photo courtesy of Mary Beley. AS004.**

The first mention to try to buy land for a permanent fairground was in 1900 and it was not until 1908 or 1909 that Humphrey Township bought six lots from the Monteith Brothers on west Ash Street and east Maple Street. The first exhibition hall was built in 1915, using some lumber which had been salvaged from Anderson's Cheese factory near Ashdown Corners. A kitchen was added to this building in 1925, at a cost of $175. From this building many delicious lunches were served at noon, the rough wooden shelves were lined with homemade pies, bowls of various salads and platters of cold meats. There was no electricity or running water but there was a wood burning cook stove, the biggest convenience in the kitchen!! At that time adults could purchase lunch for 35 cents and children for 25 cents. This building served its purpose well, until the morning of March 2nd, 1979 when it was discovered that the Exhibition Hall had collapsed from the weight of snow on the roof. The small kitchen however remained standing.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 1935, the fair dance was in the form of an old time costume ball with contests for fiddling, step dancing and best costume for ladies and men. On more than one occasion the Society was in financial difficulties but always managed to hold the Fall Fair. For the exhibits from school children of the surrounding area, the Department of Agriculture supplied a large tent, which was set up early on the morning of Fair Day. This began in the mid 1930s and was discontinued during the early 1940s. At one time, all manner of livestock, poultry and farm produce were a major item at the fair. With the decline of farming in this area, plus strict government regulations, small Fall Fairs may soon cease to exist.

The Canadian Red Cross

The Organization's meeting of the Red Cross in Rosseau was called to order on October 16th, 1939. Members were:

Mrs. W.H. Oaks, President
Mrs. E. Grant Campbell, Vice-President
Mrs. R. Edward Crawford, Secretary (resigned moved to Galt.)
Miss Reta Hannon, Secretary (replaced Mrs. R. Edward Crawford)
Mrs. Ella (George) Foote, Treasurer
Committee President, Women's Assoc. United Church
President, Woman's Auxiliary Anglican Church
President, Hekkla Women's Assoc..
Reeve, Village of Rosseau
Miss Jane McCans, Humphrey Township Representative

Meetings were held once per week. Card parties were held on the third Thursday of each month. The organization held dances, garden parties, and sent parcels to the boys overseas and those in training in Canada. These ladies did much knitting and sewing and aided the Blankets for Britain Fund.

Photo left: **Rosseau Red Cross Workers, WW I. The women refused to send cigarettes overseas. Photo taken in front of the Humphrey Township Hall at #1142 HWY 141 between the years 1914 and 1918.** Back row, left to right: **Iva (Redfern) Clubbe, Mrs. Porter, Elizabeth J. (Jackson) McCans, Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. Grenkie, Margaret Matilda (Graham) Presley.** Middle row, left to right: **Annie (Martin) Clubbe, Elizabeth (Rae) Foote, Barbara Ellen (Fallaise) Redfern, Sarah (Stoneman) Ditchburn, Thorggeraus *"Gertie"* (Gudnason) Atkinson.** Bottom row, left to right: **Mary Eliza *"Birdie"* Beley, Unknown, Mary (Jackson) Ruxton, Mary (McCans) Sirett, Edith Sarah (Ditchburn) Appelbe. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RO158.**

Photo right: **A group of WW I soldiers training at the Rosseau Fairgrounds. Names of men in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. WWI024.**

Women's Institute

The Rosseau Women's Institute (W.I.) was organized by Mrs. Todd, from Orillia, on May 25th, 1921. The first meeting of the Women's Institute was held on June 29th, 1921 and the charter members were:

Mrs. T. Ariss
Mrs. G. Atkinson
Mrs. W. J. Atkinson
Mrs. J. K. Brown
Mrs. W. Chapman
Mrs. A. W. Clubbe
Mrs. Jessie Crawford
Miss Edith Ditchburn
Mrs. W. Ditchburn
Mrs. S. Foote
Mrs. W. J. Jackson
Mrs. E. Jeanmarie
Miss McCartney
Mrs. M. Presley
Mrs. A. Redfern
Mrs. T. Ross
Mrs. James Ruxton
Mrs. E. J. Sirett
Mrs. J. Wilson
Mrs. W. J. Wright
Mrs. S. A. Young

Photo above, left to right: **1 - Mrs. Francis Grenkie, 2 - Mrs. Rhoda Woods, 3 - Mrs. Renshaw, 4 - Unknown, 5 - Elsie Griffith, 6 - Mrs. Agnes Gates, 7 - Mrs. Agnes Beley, 8 - Bernice (Elly/Jobbins) Gates, 9 - Connie Atkinson, 10 - Rose Mahon. Photo courtesy of Stella F. (Steele) Grenkie, wife of William *"Bill"* Grenkie. RO164.**

The early meetings are thought to have been held in the various member's homes. It is interesting to note that at the meeting held on August 30th, 1921 it was decided to start an "Autograph Quilt." This same quilt can be seen hanging at the Port Carling Museum. The W.I. ladies have been an important part of the community of Rosseau, helping in many ways to make life better in the good times and bad. It is noted during the war years of their many accomplishments in sending parcels to the *"Boys of the Village"* overseas. Hundreds of skeins of wool were knitted into socks and sweaters, scarves, gloves and mittens. These along with toiletries and cakes were all parceled up and sent to the "Boys" who each wrote home with grateful thanks.

The ladies also made many baby layettes for the new arrivals in the Village and also sent many layettes to England during the war years.

The members have had many varied fund raising events over the years. One that stands out was the Masquerade Ball held in 1931. Afternoon teas, card parties, and dances are but a few other activities. The ladies have always been reknowned for their cooking skills and have held many dinners and catered for many weddings and special functions. They have contributed to many charities and disaster funds.

Within the Village of Rosseau they have helped with funds for The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall construction and with the upkeep of the hall, especially the kitchen in conjunction with the Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

The ladies of today carry on the example set for them by the founding members with the same gusto, only with fewer members, remembering their motto *"For Home And Country."*

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 289

The men who returned from the first World War formed an Organization they called the Great War Veterans Association (G.W.V.A.). Some of the members were Bob and Ed Crawford, Bert Fry, Ernest and Emil Grenkie, Greg and Alfonse Hall, Hugh and James Jackson, Lee and Mervin Presley, Tom, Henry and Allan Wilson, as well as others. An interesting point of history is the fact that the first man from Rosseau to enlist in the First World War was Joe Ditchburn and the second man was George Foote. The G.W.V.A. gradually died out but the funds stayed in the bank until the Royal Canadian Legion was organized.

In April 1938 discussion began, to form a branch of the Canadian Legion in Rosseau. An Organizational meeting was held in the Council Chamber on April 26th, 1938 with 18 ex-servicemen in attendance. Mr. L.R. Menzies, Provincial Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion addressed the meeting. The Officers elected were:

President:	**Grant Campbell**
1st Vice President:	**E. K. Jones**
2nd Vice President:	**R.E. Crawford**
Secretary-Treasurer:	**George Foote**
Executive:	**W. L. Presley, J. Matthews, J. A. Knowles**
Sergeant-at-Arms:	**A. Wilson**
Chaplain:	**Rev. G. H. E. Pogson**

The Charter of the British Empire Service League was dated May 14th, 1938 with 18 members:

J. P. Bissonnette	**E. Meisenheimer**
E. G. Campbell	**R. Pepper**
R. E. Crawford	**Rev. G. H. E. Pogson**
J. Cryer	**W.L. Presley**
G. Foote	**W. Ross**
T. Godfrey	**V. M. Shaw**
E. K. Jones	**E. C. Stoneman**
J. A. Knowles	**A. R. Wilson**
J. Matthews	**H. R. Wilson**

The meetings were held in the Council Chamber of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. At the October meeting there was a motion to hold a memorial service in the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall on Sunday November 6th, 1938 to which all Organizations were cordially invited. Mrs. W. Ariss was asked to lay the Ontario Government wreath.

By 1946 servicemen were returning from the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Legion sprang to life again. On January 15th, 1946 a meeting was held in the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, presided over by Dr. C.B. Ross of Gravenhurst, the Zone Commander, for the purpose of reorganizing the Rosseau Branch #289 of the Canadian Legion. The following officers were elected:

President	**Frank T. Wood, Jr**
Vice President	**Ron Campbell**
Secretary-Treasurer	**John Cryer**
Sergeant-at-Arms	**Allan Fraser**
Executive Committee	**Elgin Stoneman, Theodore Robinson, Fred Atkinson**

Photo above: **A group photo of the men who were stationed at Rosseau during the first World War. Names of men in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Emily (Holton) Wood. RP152.**

In 1948, Legion members took over the movie projector owned by Comrade G. Foote and showed films during the winter in the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. The next year a joint film board was formed with three Legion members and three Rosseau Memorial Community Hall Board members. A projector was purchased and movies were shown on a regular basis. Legion men took turns as ticket takers and operators. For a period during July and August, movies were also shown at various Lodges (e.g. Monteith House, Royal Muskoka and Meredith Lodge) for the entertainment of the guests. The profits were split between the two Organizations as an equipment fund. This arrangement continued until November 1966 when they decided to disband. The proceeds were divided and the projector was left to the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall.

By the end of 1949 there was discussion about a Legion Auxiliary to the Branch. Plans were made to sponsor the Auxiliary and to pay the charter fee. On February 22nd, 1950, seventeen ladies were collectively initiated, a group which has supported the Branch greatly. The charter members were with husband's name in brackets:

Mrs. Annie (Ardell) Atkinson	**Standard Bearer**
Mrs. Mabel (Ivan) Campbell	
Mrs. Marion (Ronald) Campbell	**1st Vice-President**
Mrs. Esther (Sidney) Chapman	**Entertainment Convenor**
Mrs. Mary (Lloyd) Einarson	**Executive Committee**
Mrs. Betty (Allan) Fraser	**Secretary**
Mrs. Agnes (Ralph) Gates	**Sick Committee for Rosseau**
Mrs. Mae (Ellis) Gates	**2nd Vice-President**
Mrs. Ella (Thomas) Godfrey	**Sick Committee for Hekkla**
Mrs. Margaret (Arthur) Schillemore	**Treasurer**
Mrs. Catharine (William) Stoneman	
Mrs. Dorothy (Henry) Stoneman	
Mrs. Marion (Richard) Stoneman	**Executive Committee**
Mrs. Isabel (Robert) Swainson	**Executive Committee**
Mrs. Una (Percy(Bud)) Thompson	
Mrs. Isabella (Victor) Whight	
Mrs. Teresa (Leonard) Wright	**President**

Schools in Rosseau

The first attempt to conduct an organized School in the Township of Humphrey was operated as a private venture by Mrs. Georgina Rickard (nee Dawson), later Mrs. Harry Sirett. It was situated about 200 yards north of Ashdown Corners, now the junction of Hwy 141 and Nipissing Road on the west side.

Photo above: **Old School across the road from Union Cemetery. Photo of School children was taken approximately in 1906.** Back row, left to right: **Walter Foote, George Foote, Fred Ariss, Hugh Jackson, Hal Clubbe, Howard Elliot, Norman Baines, Greg Hall, Stan Baines, Harry Morden, Torry Presley, Teacher: Eascott.** 2nd row: **Vic Shaw, Clarence Foote, Einar Einarson, Flemming Young, Tom Draycott, Cecil Shaw, Mervin Presley, Donald Shaw, Gordon Flemming, Lee Presley, Hilton Taylor, Ross Grant, Jessie Young, Flo Hall.** 3rd row: **Seguin Taylor, Mary Helmkay, Nelly Draycott, Liza Vicars, Mary Ariss, Edna Clubbe, Jane McCans, Clara Flemming, Phyllis Cooke, Kathleen Cooke, Alma Atkinson.** 4th row: **May Rolson, May Anderson, Lou Fraser, Pearl Atkinson, Winnie Morden, Lila Atkinson, Doris Draycott, Harriett Kellington, Eva Frazer, Mary McCans, Edna Atkinson, Lillian Rolston.** Front row: **Joe Helmkay, Bess Jackson, Edith Fraser, Elsie Elliot, John Morden, Tom Ariss. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. SS002.**

Seven years after the incorporation of Humphrey Township, in 1866, an increase in the area population made it evident that a school would have to be built to serve the Townplot of Helmsley, now Rosseau, and the surrounding area. In June of 1873, Humphrey Council passed By-law #3 which defined school zones. Helmsley was classified as S.S. Zone 1. In April of the following year, Council resolved to raise $350, by loan, to build a school to serve S.S. #1. It has not been definitely established whether the school opened the same year, but a school was erected across from the present Union Cemetery. The location was chosen because it was considered reasonably central for students living along the Parry Sound Road and Nipissing Road. Students came to the school from as far west as Sucker Lake. At times the attendance rose to over 60 pupils. The largest number came during the late fall and winter months, when older children were not needed for work at home. During the most severe parts of winter, only older students braved walking up to 3 miles to reach the one room school house. There were no snow plowed roads, no warm or waterproof clothing and no cosy school room awaiting their arrival. The classroom was sparsely furnished with only wooden benches and lead slates for writing. It was heated by a wood box stove and only those seated closest to the stove sizzled on one side and froze on the other. The

small yellow frame school carried on as S.S. #1 until 1907 when plans were underway to build more schools in Humphrey Township. The school section was severed and S.S. #1 became Ashdown, and Helmsley was now placed in S. S. #7.

The first teacher was Mr. Harper, who lived in a clearing near the first creek south of Rosseau. This meant he had over two miles to walk each way to the school. We can imagine what this was like when there were no roads plowed in the winter. Another of the early teachers was Noah Chowne, which we presume was his first name. In 1933, he wrote from his home in southern California describing when he taught school at S.S. #1. The following are excerpts from that letter:

"My first appearance in Rosseau was after a ride of thirty miles or more from Utterson, the nearest point of contact with the railroad. It was the 1st of January and I arrived in Rosseau in the evening, just about frozen. The Monteith House was quite a pretentious place in those days, in the summer, but in the winter, only the kitchen, the bar, and a few rooms were used. So when I woke in the morning, I found the water in the pitcher was frozen to depth of about two inches and I had to drill a hole with my jackknife to get water to wash with. The snow was so deep on all the streets that it was the following spring before I really saw what the Village looked like. I boarded with Louis Lepper, the Village wagon maker, and slept over the shop and many mornings I woke to find a little pile of snow within a few inches of my face. The school I taught in was about one and a half miles out on the Parry Sound Road, set right in the woods. In the winter the pupils were nearly all grown men and women. I remember many of their names including Bill Bailey, Herman Mutchinbaker, the Draycott Boys, the Monteith Boys, and their sister Florence, the Harvey Girls, the Chowne Sisters Dagmar and Thyra, the Shuttleworth Boys, the Jordans, and lots of others nearly all older than myself. I was just 15 years old. I was my own janitor and I used to arrive about an hour before school time and as there was no woodshed I had to make a survey nearly every morning to decide the most promising place to dig for wood for the fire. At the end of the school house where the door opened, was a solid line of snowshoes, set up to dry as nearly everyone came on showshoes."

Photo above: **The photo of the School children was taken in 1912.** Back row, left to right: **Art Ariss, Harold Dixon, Joe Presley, Elmer Taylor, George Clubbe, Flora Dixon, Alma Atkinson, Edith Ditchburn, Tess Anderson, Marian Stephenson.** 3rd row: **Oliver Beley, Arnold Dixon, Rae Foote, Lucy Beley, Marjorie Beley, Aileen Coate, Alan Lambert, Alvin Ariss.** 2nd row: **Glen Ashdown, Floyd McGary, Ernie Fleming, Errol Lambert, Henry Presley, unknown, Irene Harvey, Lillian Stephenson, Lillie Beley, Viola Clubbe, Emily Taylor, Gladys Ariss, Alita Lambert.** Front row: **Tom Chapman, Sid Chapman, Wilford Lambert, unknown Stevenson, Errol Young, Charlie Size, Flossie McGary, Finnar Finnson, Annie Size, Beatrice Presley, Myrtle Ariss, Rita Ariss, Blanche Frost.** Teachers were **Mr. Wallace Musdock** (seated on the left) and **Miss Currie** (seated on the right). **Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. SS016.**

Photo above: **Rosseau Public School, Senior Room about 1921 or later.** Pupils standing, left to right: **Clint Gilpin, Chris Gudnason, Fred Einarson, Florence Ariss, Beatrice Chapman, Edith Size** (behind Beatrice Chapman), **Ethel Size, Adelaide Webster, Kathleen Ariss, Lillie Beley, Margaret Webster, Dorothy Atkinson, Nellie Giles, Ethel Beley and Ellen Knowles.** 1st row: **Jack Marlow, Barney Finnson, Art Bell, Albert Bishton, Oscar Finnson, Alf Fraser, Paul Einarson, Bill Grenkie.** Front row, reclining: **Bruce Foote, Teacher Mr. Keith C. Stevenson, Finner Finnson, Norman Giles. Photo courtesy of William *"Bill"* Grenkie. SS005.**

Photo left: **The Humphrey Township Hall at #1142 Hwy 141 was used as a temporary classroom from 1922 to 1928. You can see the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall to the left. Unfortunately we do not know the names of these young children or when the photo was taken. Photo courtesy of Evelyn (Barber) Frost. SS006.**

Junior Room Teachers

J. Campbell	Jan 1909 - Dec 1910
M. I. Montgomery	Jan 1911 - June 1911
E. MacKay	Sept 1911 - Dec 1912
Ethel Currie	Jan 1913 - June 1913
Clara L. Homeeth	Sept 1913 - June 1915
E.A. Draycott's name appears as a supply	
Astley Stubbs	Sept 1915 - June 1916
Bessie Ralston	Sept 1916 - June 1918
Lena M. Hammill	Sept 1918 - June 1919
Mrs. Ella Stevens	Sept & Oct 1919
George Foote	Nov & Dec 1919
Clarence J. McDonald	Jan 1920 - June 1920
Marian J. Brown	Sept 1920 - June 1921
Elspeth Blyth	Sept 1921 - June 1922
Mary C. Nicholls	Sept 1922 - June 1924
Annie Perkins	Sept 1924 - June 1925
Thelma Fenwick	Sept 1925 - June 1927
Eleanore Fosdick	Sept 1927 - June 1929
Gladys M. Tait	Sept 1929 - June 1930
Hilda Miller	Sept 1930 - Dec 1935
Eileen M. Lake; married Oliver Beley	Jan 1936 - June 1940
Dorothy Jamieson	Sept 1940 - June 1942
Mrs. Grace Smith	Sept 1942 - June 1943
Marian I. House, married Ron Campbell	Sept 1943 - June 1947
Mr. Marshall	Sept 1947 - June 1950

Junior Room Teachers con't

Marian I. (House) Campbell	Sept 1950 - June 1954
Marjorie Rice	Sept 1954 - June 1956
Jane McCans, married E.J. Sirett	Sept 1956 - June 1959
Vivian Hamilton	Sept 1959 - June 1960
Mrs. Kathleen Brodie	Sept 1960 - June 1961
Patricia Brown, married Jim Swift	Sept 1961 - June 1963
Linda Voycey	Sept 1963 - June 1965
Mrs. Jessie Phillips	Sept 1965 - June 1966
Opportunity Class at Rosseau School	
Mrs. Doris Sharp	Sept 1966 - June 1967

Intermediate Room Teachers

Irene L. Steele	Sept 1922 - March 1923
Adele Ashdown	March 1923 (Supply)
Olive Christian	April 1923 - June 1924
Ruby P. Teett	Sept 1924 - June 1925
Carrie V. Mann	Sept 1925 - June 1927
Marjarie H. Bryan	Sept 1927 - June 1928

The Intermediate Room was located in the Township Hall at the corner of Victoria Street and Hwy 141 from September 1922 to June 1928.

With the mention of the name Chowne, we know that Noah was teaching here somewhere in the era 1880-1891, as during that time Rev Chowne was the Minister of the Anglican Church, The Church of the Redeemer. The teacher in 1908 was Mr. Hetherington. He was paid a salary of $400 for first term and $425 for the latter half of the academic year. The new Village school, built in 1909, was used until the amalgamation of Humphrey Central School and several smaller schools in 1966. Lots 18 & 19 on Locke Street West where the village School was built, were purchased for $114.40. The total cost of the two room School, for which the building foreman was paid $3.25 for a ten hour day, was $2,064.25. The new School was given a wood burning furnance, back in the days when hardwood cost only $2.50 a cord. Wardens of The Church of the Redeemer Anglican Church sold the school its bell for $4. The bell had been rung so hard at a wedding that it had cracked, yet it still served the School well. A fee was charged to the families of non-resident pupils and the first set rate was high for those times. For pupils of the fifth form it was $1 per month and in Junior rooms $0.50 per pupil per month. In 1923, this was changed to $50 per annum to families outside the School Section. In 1911, the old School building and lot across from the cemetery were sold to the Township of Humphrey. For a few years it was rented as a private home and later the building was torn down.

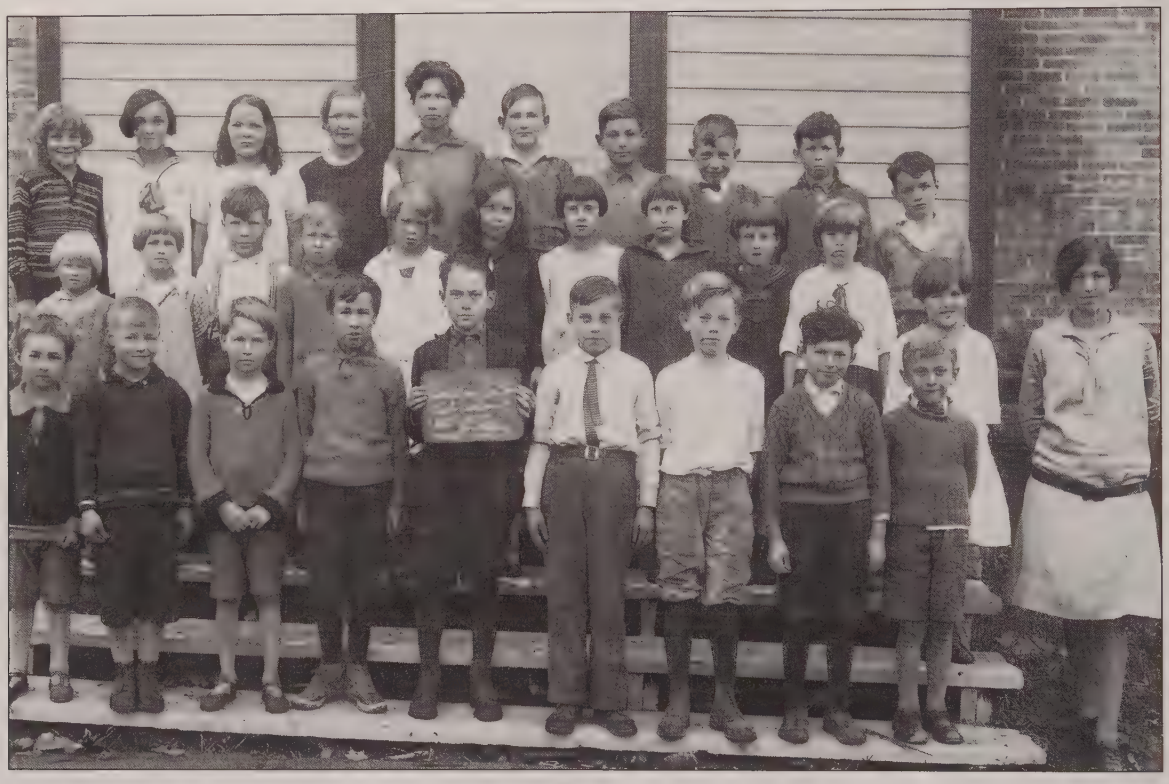


Photo above: **Rosseau Public School, Junior room, 1928.** Back row, left to right: **Joyce Stewart, Cecilia Shaw, Una Brown, Alice Bishton, Violet West, Ellis Gate, Fred Perry, Bill Gates, Einar Finnson, Clifford Shaw.** Middle row: **Freda Finnson, Dorothy Holton, Allan Fraser, Charlie Wood, Lena Finnson, Enid Shaw, Viola Giles, Nancy Matthews, Flora Giles, Ella Dixon, Emily Holton.** Front row: **Clarence Bishton, Billy Wilson, Charlie Bishton, Frank Woods, Donald Hall, Allan Bartlett, Allan Dixon, Osborne Shaw, Hugh Ariss. Teacher Miss Eleanore Fosdick**, standing on the right. **Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. SS003.**

By the year 1913, the caretaker Mrs. W. M. Chapman was receiving a yearly salary of $60. The fires were to be started no later than 7 am, and she was not to let any boys in the basement when firing up. By 1918, a steam heating plant was installed to replace the hot air system. In 1922, the School was provided with a flag. In the same year, or shortly thereafter, a sanitary system was installed in the School and water was supplied from Mr. A. Anderson's well. In 1926, a new water line was put to his well and this was later moved to the Presley property. This gave running water by gravity. Taps and sinks were put in the rooms and towels were provided.

A movement was started to establish a consolidated School here and also a continuation School in connection to the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. Some people wanted it to be a memorial School as it would have an auditorium. This was turned down at a vote of each of the School Sections.

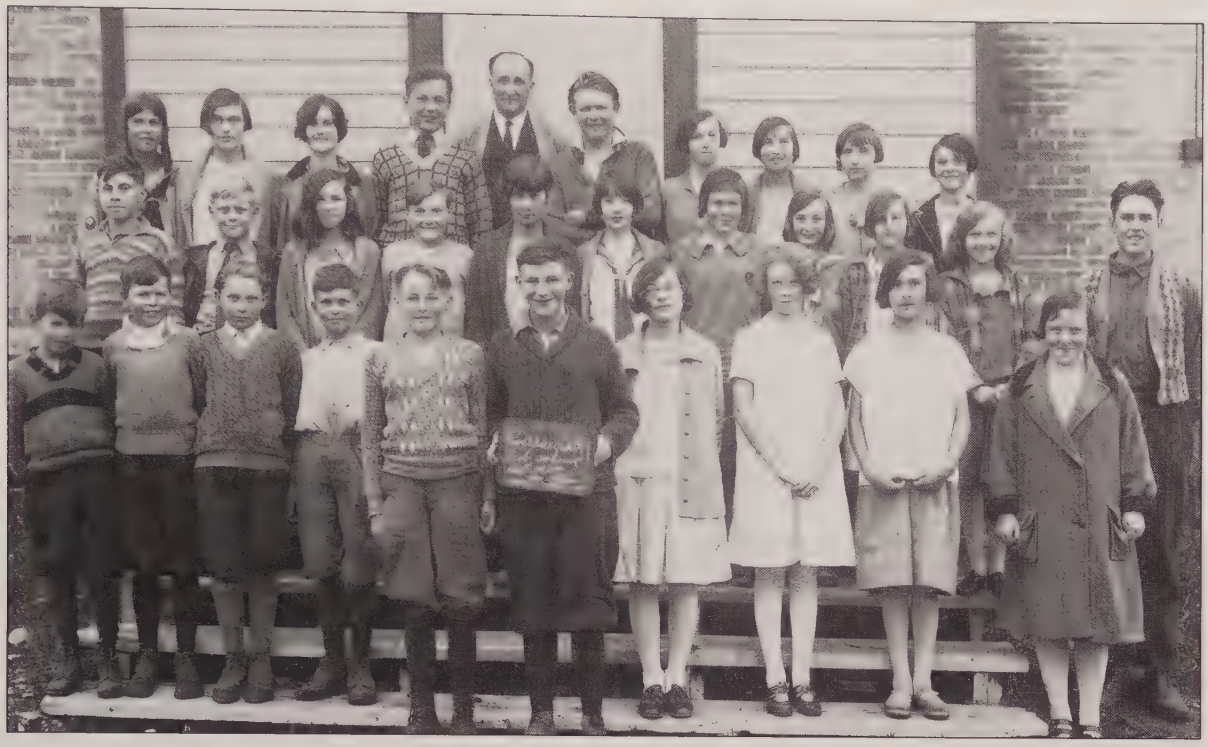


Photo above: **Rosseau Public School, Senior room, 1928.** Back row, left to right: **Florence Gates, Elsie Wilson, Inez Atkinson, Carl Clubbe, Teacher Mr. Stuart, Elgin Einarson, Sylvia Crowder, Margaret Wilson, Iva Dixon, Alice Hall.** Middle row: **Lloyd Beley, Lloyd Einarson, Audrey Shaw, Florence Knowles, Elsie Ariss, Margaret Hall, Elva Fraser, Nina Cryer, Hilda Wilson, Sylvia Ariss, Allan Frost.** Front row: **Stanely Einarson, John Holton, Ralph Raymond, Ivan Einarson, Ray Stuart, Eddie Fraser, Edna Meads, Carrie Wright, Mary Bishton, Alice Fraser. Photo courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. SS001.**

In 1922, the Rossseau School was full to capacity and a temporary classroom was set up in the former Humphrey Township office on the corner of Victoria Street and Hwy 141. The extra classroom was rented on a monthly basis until the end of June 1926. At this time the attendance at the School had declined to 65 pupils, compared to 85 when the third room was established. In 1916, Rosseau had become an entrance centre which meant the pupils from surrounding schools came here to write their grade 8 exams. By 1923, there were continuation classes at the School, grades 9 and 10, these were free of charge to any non-resident pupils. The School Board would not consider the suggested prize list for school children in connection with the Agricultural Society Fall Fair. The first mention of a school holiday for fair day was in 1926, but the pupils must parade to the fair grounds. This applied to all the schools in the local municipalities. The pupils gathered at the School at 1 pm when the parade was formed. In January 1928, the Board of Trustees became known as the Rosseau Public School Board now that the Village had been incorporated.

Senior Room Teachers

Edwin R. Ward	Jan 1909 - Feb 1909
Miss Haines	Feb 1909 - June 1909
Wallace Murdock	Sept 1909 - June 1915
Lawrence Maguire	Sept 1915 - May 1917
Wallace Murdock	May & June 1917
G. Williamson	Sept 1917
Frank Bryans	Oct 1917
Minnie Graham	Nov 1917 - June 1919
Clarence L. Kerr	Sept 1919 - June 1920
Ruth L. Denike	Sept 1920 - June 1921
Keith C. Stevenson	Sept 1921 - June 1922
D.G. Currie	Sept, Oct, Nov 1922
Clarles S. Stewart	Dec 1st, 1922 - June 1929
Walter E. McCann	Sept & Oct 1929
Arthur C. Morgan	Nov 1929 - June 1933
George A. Gault	Sept 1933 - June 1947
Mr. Marshall	Sept 1947 - June 1949
Mr. White	Sept 1949 - June 1950
John M. Jackson	Sept 1950 - June 1960
Henry Lammers	Sept 1960 - June 1962
Eric Simpson	Sept 1962 - June 1963
William Crouch	Sept 1963 - June 1964
Angus Hilts	Sept 1964 - June 1966

Electric lights were installed in 1931. Pupils who had completed Public School had the privilege of attending Parry Sound High School starting in 1946, when Mr. William (Bill) Gates purchased and operated a school bus. He kept this position for 29 years.

Photo above: **1946, Eaton's Delivery truck then the Muskoka Lakes Navigator was turned into a bus. It just ran for one year because it was too small. Mr. Bill Gates in the front window of the Rosseau School Bus. The girls who rode the bus are**, left tor right: **Wilma Allen, Eileen (Dailey) MacIntosh, Helen Spooner, June (Bissonette) MacNeil, Virginia (McCans) McCabe,** and **Helen (Dailey) Byles. Photo courtesy of William *"Bill"* & Bernice (Elly/ Jobbins) Gates. SS012**

Photo above: **Rosseau Public School, 1938.** Back row, left to right: **Harry Stoneman, Harold Jones, Fred Atkinson, Donald Wilson, Principal Mr. George Gault, Teacher Miss Eileen Lake, Donald Pepper, Mel Shaw, Bob Foote, Bob Atkinson, Wayne Bowles, Stan Wilson.** 4th row: **Rena Foote, Ruth Einarson, Dorothy Knowles, Betty Wood, Isabel Mathews, Wilma Shaw, Blanche Shaw, Etta Finnson, Joan Allan.** 3rd row: **Gwen Pepper, Ruth Holton, Jeanette Ariss, Ola Ariss, Mary Ariss, Doris Allan, Geraldine Grenkie, Alma Stoneman, Shirley Smith, unknown Bowles.** 2nd row: **Wilma Allan, Ruth Clubbe, Eleanor Baskey, Margaret Chapman, Joan Smith, Lillian Chapman, Dawna Smith, Jean Foote, Isabelle Draycott, Maxine McGary, Elaine Draycott, Rosalie Mathews.** Front row: **Roy Wilson, Laverne Baskey, David Atkinson, Horace Jones, Colin Ariss, Terry Pepper, Billy Plested, Robert Pepper, Philip Chapman, Jim Baskey. Photo courtesy of Eileen (Lake) Beley. SS004.**

Photo above: **Rosseau Public School, 1950.** Back row, left to right: **Teacher Marian I. Campbell, Ernie Chapman, Warren Chapman, David Jackson, Conrad Smith, Peter Thompson, Terry Einarson, Marvin Bissonette, Anne Frost, Dorrie Frost, Leona Bissonette, Yvonne Bissonette, Linda Dailey, Roxanne Chapman, Teacher John M. Jackson.** 2nd row: **Ken Lashbrooke, Dale Macdonald, Charles Atkinson, Albert LaLone, Jim Wright, Jim Swift, Ed Grenkie, Michael Jackson, Margaret Atkinson, Erna Bissonette, Shirley Wood, Ellen Bissonette, Margaret Cox, Joyce Wood, Norma Atkinson, Joyce Raymond.** Front row: **Doug Grenkie, Morley Smith, Ken Bissonette, Ralph Chapman, Anthony Adams, John Swift, Jackie Wood, Shirley Plested, Linda Cox, Janice Adams, Ruth Ann Macdonald, Anna Mary Atkinson, Mary Beley, Heather Macdonald. Photo courtesy of Mary Beley. SS013.**

The School Christmas concerts were an annual event and had been held in the Monteith Hall, L.O.L. Hall, the Township Hall, and the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. Some of the Trustees in the early history of the School were Dr. S.A. Foote, W. Ditchburn, L. Wilkinson, W. Ashdown, C.K. Beley, W.J. Atkinson, G.A. Atkinson, D. Flemming, W.A. Lambert, Rev. Hankinson, H.F.C. Jones, C.S. Raymond. Pupils from S.S. #1 Cardwell, Rosseau Falls School were bused to Rosseau commencing in September 1952 when the School there was closed. This also included pupils from S.S. #5 Cardwell, Bear Cave School which was closed in June 1950. And these pupils had been bused to S.S. #1 Cardwell. The School in Hekkla S.S. #2 Cardwell closed in June 1963 and these pupils were bused to Rosseau the following September. Another School which closed was S.S. #8 Stanley House in Humphrey Township and these pupils were also bused to Rosseau. The Old Rosseau School served its purpose well for 57 years until 1966 when a busing program was begun to take the students to the more modern facilities at Humphrey Central School. What was once the Rosseau Public School has been converted into two apartment dwellings.

Photo left: **Rosseau Public School, 1909 - 1966. The School consisted of two rooms, a Junior room and a Senior room. The building is still standing at #5 Victoria Street East. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. SS028.**

Rosseau Volunteer Fire Service

In March 1946, the Village purchased a portable pump and hose for fire protection. Mr. Bill Grenkie was Fire Chief and he was able to obtain a panel truck for use with the portable pump and hose. In May 1946, the Village Council accepted the Township of Humphrey's offer of $400 and the Township of Cardwell's offer of $200 towards the cost of fire fighting equipment. Finally in September 1949, Rosseau's first fire truck was purchased for $8,103 which was an old army truck converted to a fire truck. This truck is still in existence. One fire this truck went out to was in Parry Sound when the Brunswick Hotel burned. Mr. George Clifford recalls pumping water out of the river to fight the fire.

In January 1950, by-law #213 was passed stating: *"To provide for the establishment and regulation of a Volunteer Fire Department."*. A 38 ft x 16 ft Fire Hall was erected in the spring of 1950, adjoining the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall. In May 1950, By law #218 was passed providing for the issue of debentures for $6,500 to provide for the purchase of a fire truck and fire fighting equipment, be read 1st and 2nd times and sent to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval. The rate of fire protection would be $150 for the Cardwell Township and $300 for the Humphrey Township.

One "end of war stories" has been told that Canadian Plastic Surgeon Dr. Ross Tilley took home an air raid siren from East Grinstead, England. Group Captain Dr. Ross Tilley opened the Canadian Wing of the Queen Victoria Hospital. The wing was built with funds from Canada. One complaint Dr. Tilley had was the air raid siren went off 30 feet from his bedroom window. The Urban District Council heard about this complaint and when he was to return to Canada the siren was suitably inscribed with a brass plaque and presented to him. The siren's name is "Ulysses" and weighs 300 pounds. At that point in time Dr. and Mrs. Tilley had a vacation retreat on a small lake a few miles south of Rosseau (now Camp Hollyburn). Dr. Tilley presented the siren to the Village of Rosseau for use as a fire siren. During the first few years in its new location the siren was sounded every day at 12 noon. The siren still remains in the Rosseau Fire Hall but is no longer in use.

The first time the new fire truck was used, was to fight the fire at the Monteith Inn on November 15th, 1950.

List of Fire Chiefs:

Alvin R. Jackson
Ivan Campbell
William *"Bill"* Grenkie
Joseph *"Joe"* Bissonette
William *"Bill"* Gates
Ronald Whitehouse
George Clifford
Ronald Fraser
Mike Field
Amalgamation - 1998
Seguin Township
Pete Barbour
Dave Thompson

Photo right: **Rosseau Fire Dept's first Fire Hall was located beside the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall on Victoria Street. Photo courtesy of Mike Field. RI074.**

Hydro Service

By Frank T. Wood, Secretary/Treasurer of the Village of Rosseau

Under a franchise agreement dated November 15th, 1924 between the Corporation of the Township of Humphrey and John Knowles, plumber, the following conditions were set out:

"That John Knowles be granted the sole right and title to operate an electric lighting system under the name of "ROSSEAU ELECTRIC SYSTEM" and that permission be granted to erect and maintain upon the streets of the Police Village of Rosseau the necessary poles, wire and equipment for carrying on such an electric system."

"That electricity be supplied to consumers at the rate of 20 cents per kilowatt hour for a term of ten years, provided however, that either party may, after the termination of the first five years of the agreement, appeal to a board of arbitration for adjustment of the rate. That a minimum charge of $1 per month shall be charged each customer for electric service, and that a meter rental of 20 cents per month shall also be paid. The erection of poles and wires shall be approved by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission."

Electric power was supplied by a gasoline - driven dynamo, and some ten or more dwellings and two churches were supplied with electric light. On April 8th, 1926 an act of Parliament was passed incorporating the Village of Rosseau, the Rosseau Electric System continued to operate until December 1st, 1929 when service was discontinued. The following notice to Municipal Council dated July 1st, 1929, as recorded: *"Owing to the fact that the Rosseau Electric System has continuously operated at a loss, the owner feels it is impossible to continue. Therefore, please take notice on or after December 1st, 1929 electric service will be discontinued."* Signed by John Knowles.

Through the efforts of John Knowles, who was then Reeve of Rosseau Village, and Henry Longhurst, Reeve of the Village of Windermere, negotiations were then made to secure electric power from Ontario Hydro. Several appeals and delegations were made on behalf of the residents of Rosseau and, finally enough subscribers who guaranteed to take electric service were secured and a power line was built to transmit power from the substation at Utterson to serve Windermere and Rosseau. In 1933, a municipal debenture issue of $13,000 repayable in twenty years with interest at six percent was approved by the Municipal Board to be repaid by the consumers of electric power. This provided funds for the building of a distribution system within the Village of Rosseau. Power was purchased from Ontario Hydro and sold to consumers in the Village. A cost contract with Ontario Hydro was signed on March 2nd, 1931, whereby seventy horse power was reserved and delivered at earliest date, which was July 11th, 1931. Signing for Hydro Electric Power Commission was Mr. J. R. Cookes, Acting Chairman and for the Village of Rosseau, Mr. Fred T. Einarson. On the committee at the first meeting of September 2nd, 1931 were: Mr. C.S. Raymond, and Mr. Rae Foote, with Mr. Fred T. Einarson, Reeve of the Village of Rosseau, as Chairman. On January 14th, 1932 the Committee comprised of Mr. J. Knowles, Mr. H. L. Webster and Mr. W. L. Presley.

There were 67 customers in 1931 and 128 customers in 1966.

Ice Harvesting

Ice Harvest Time In Muskoka

Oh, it's ice-harvest time up here again.
It's a most unpredictable job.
The cutters and packers are sure to complain
Of getting a cold in the knob.

Oh, it's terrible what a man does say,
When his fingers get cold and he curses.
Working out there on a cold stormy day
For the sake of filling his purses.

It's tough on the fellow pulling it out
Working in cold winds and wet.
Nine times out of ten it gives them the gout
But that's not the worst of it yet.

Aye, I have them coughing great guns,
While others nearly die of the flue.
If you think they are not tough ones,
Then that is the job for you.

Oh, it's not very nice to start work at seven
When the temperature is forty below.
Oh, how the boys hate to be there at eleven
When they can't see to work in the snow.

Oh, there's times when a fellow would rather be dead
It's terrible how they suffer.
Working out there sure goes to their head,
When the weather gets rougher and rougher.

But at last comes a day when the job is done,
And the men are all to be seen
In a warm place up town having some fun,
And playing the slot machine.

Author of poem is Frank G. Wood. RI079.

Photo above: **Loading the ice blocks on the sleigh. House on the hill in background is *"Ferncliff."* Photo courtesy of Amy (Beley) Jackson. RI075.**

Before electricity and refrigeration came to Rosseau, people kept their food fresh by means of ice boxes. Every winter, usually in the month of February, when the ice in the lake was at its thickest, the men of the Village got together to cut the blocks of ice to fill their ice houses. One of the locations where ice was cut was just below the lookout at "Ferncliffe."

The blocks of ice were cut in squares measuring 12" x 12" or 15" x 15" and the hole in the lake measured about 35 ft x 48 ft. The blocks were then drawn on sleighs by teams of horses to each ice house and the blocks of ice were then covered with sawdust. As well as filling their own ice houses, they also drew ice to cottages, Monteith Inn, Rossmoyne Inn, the Eatons and the Navigation Co. and many others. It took 1000 blocks of ice to fill the Navigation Co.'s ice house.

Postcard left: **Late 1940s. Behind his horse, Ed Crawford.** Foreground, left to right: **Einar Finnson, Ellis Gates & Allan Frost. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RI076.**

Post Office Services

How did those first few settlers in the area at the head of Lake Rosseau receive or send mail? Fortunately one of the earliest pioneers kept a diary and in the spring of 1867, in what would become the Village of Rosseau, he mentions stopping at the Post Office. On May 11th, 1867, he wrote:

"Slade, Irwin, myself and Beal the Post Office Master, in rowboats and canoes for the Indian Village." (Port Carling)

In another entry he mentions the Post Master as Mr. John Beal, who was the man who built the log shanty on the site, where in a few short years would be the Monteith Hotel landmark. From this information we would have to presume that it was the first form of mail service, at least during the months they could travel by water. There was no mention of mail during the remainder of the year.

The mail for Ashdown P.O. was handled by Mr. William F. Sirett, who operated a large combination sail rowboat, in which he could also carry some passengers and freight. He rowed to Port Carling and back, a total of 28 miles.

Whether or not the Post Office was in another building before The Rosseau House has never been established but we do know that the mail was handled there until the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1883.

The next Post Master was Mr. William Ditchburn, who established a Post Office in his home. In the 1901 census he is listed as Post Master at a salary of $335 per year on Oak Street Lot 17. During this time period, the Post Master had to supply their own building, and the first postal building for Rosseau was built in 1921 for Mr. George Foote. He was Post Master for only a short period of time, and prior to the new Federal Postal building opening in June 1964, Mr. Foote leased his postal building to the following, who had the mail contract:

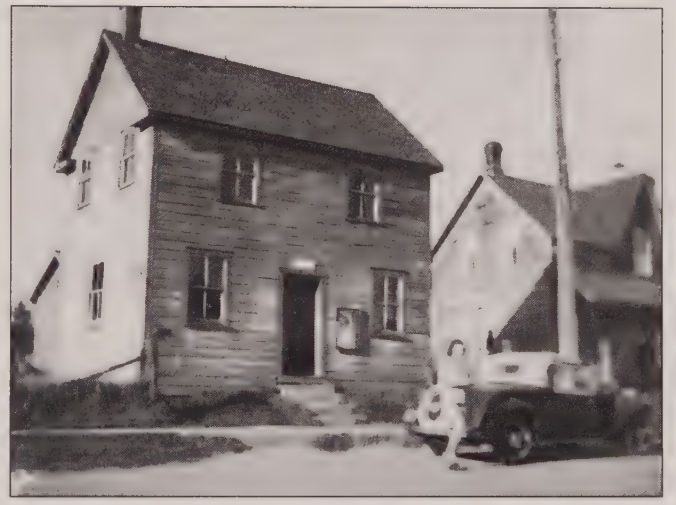


Photo above: **Rosseau P.O., built in 1921. Equipment from William Ditchburn's home was relocated here. Photo taken on June 18th, 1964. The 1932 Plymouth car was owned by Mr. Charles Raymond. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RI002.**

July 1924 - August 1944: Mr. H. F. C. Jones. Mr. Jones died in August 1944 and during his illness, Evelyn Louise (Ariss) Holton/Hoare was his assistant.

August 1944 - October 1945: Evelyn Louise (Ariss) Holton/Hoare.

October 1945 - April 1954: Robert *"Bob"* William Swainson.

May 1954: Duncan Bissonette, Isabell (Matthews) Swainson, assistant.

June 1954 - December 1977: Allan Frost. Evelyn (Barber) Frost was his assistant. New Federal Postal building located at the corner of Hwy 141 and Muskoka Road 3, opened June 1964 - #1 Cardwell Road.

January 1978 - January 1984: Emily (Holton) Wood.

January 1984 - April 2000: Marion (Benton) Larkin.

May 2000 - October 2000: Acting Debbie (McAmmond) Mullen.

November 2000 - present (2006): Faye (Wilson) Smith.

Photo above: **Photo taken in 1890 of the first P.O. Building attached to the Ditchburn's house - #13 Oak Street.** Left to right: **Mildred Irene *"Harve"* Harvey, William Ditchburn** and **Mabel Christabel Ditchburn. Photo courtesy of Evelyn (Ditchburn) Parker. RM090.**

Mail Service to Rosseau

As mentioned before, how did mail reach this area during the winter months for the first couple of years of this settlement ? We can only presume someone would walk to Bracebridge where a Post Office was set up in 1864, as walking great distances was a way of life in those days. By 1867, there was a wagon road of sorts from Bracebridge to Parry Sound. One of the largest Stage Companies was that of Mr. John Harvie of Orillia and no doubt he had the first stage line through Rosseau. In the Guide Book & Atlas of 1879 it lists Harvie's Stage as Royal Mail Line of Stages and Rosseau as one of the stopping points. Before 1900, his son James owned a house and barn in Rosseau on Victoria Street West, (#4 Victoria Street West) and carried on his stage and mail route from there.

Photo left: **The Cherokee and Islander brought mail into Rosseau. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RN015.**

The small steamboat, Waubanic had been warped up the rapids at Port Carling in 1869 and ran on Lake Rosseau and carried mail to Cameron's Bay. When the locks were built at Port Carling in 1871 the larger steamers came up Lake Rosseau, carrying passengers, mail and freight.

The following was told by Mr. Frank Clubbe:

In 1906 he was working for James Harvie who ran a stage line up the Nipissing Road. At that time the Harvies had four teams, and Mr. Clubbe had the mail run to Maple Lake at Edginton on the Grand Trunk R.R.. Following the Harvies for a short period of time the mail contract went to Mr. Frank Meshaw, then Mr. John Helmkay who had the same route as Mr. Clubbe. Mr. Clubbe was not certain when the mail route was changed to Rosseau Road Station. Mr. George Atkinson had the stage and mail contract.

For a good number of years the method of travel was still with team and sleigh during the winter and for the remainder of the year by team and wagon or democrat. Even with the advent of the automobile, the Parry Sound Road was not kept open in the winter until the mid 1940s. At the junction of Hwy 141 and Clear Lake Road was a farm where the team of horses were changed and this second team continued on to Rosseau Road Station. On the return trip, it was the same procedure, the first team having been fed, watered and rested. During the late fall and winter it was dark before the mail arrived. Mrs. Emily Wood has told us that on a clear crisp winter's night you could hear the sleigh bells when the team was still north of the Village.

Photo above: **In 1920, George A. Atkinson had the mail service stage from Hilltop (#1150 HWY 141). Notice the sign on windshield of car: "Stage, Phone 6." Notice the date on the car licence plate - 1928. People in the car,** left to right: **Thorggeraus *"Gertie"* (Gudnason) Atkinson (George's wife) , Chris Gudnason, George A. Atkinson (driver), Freda (Gudnason) Brown, Kristina Gudnason,** with 2 small children, left to right: **Una Brown and Bill Brown. Photo courtesy of Einar & Eileen (Egerter) Finnson. RI077.**

Mr. Atkinson died in the spring of 1945 and prior to that Mrs. Ruth (Holton) Steele had been assisting him and she carried on with the mail run until September 1945. For a short time she had the help of her sisters Mrs. Dorothy Jacklin, and Mrs. Emily Wood for the remaining time. The road from the highway into Rosseau Road Station left something to be desired from fall until late spring and the gals had to stop and put chains on the truck tires and take them off on the return when reaching the highway. On several occasions they had to get a man with his team to tow them. Mrs. Emily Wood said that she never did get the hang of putting on those chains. Mr. Frank T. Wood, Jr. obtained the mail contract in September 1945.

Saw Mills

We are told the first saw mill was situated near the 2nd bridge on Shadow River where the Nipissing Road crossed. Mr. Fred Bishton had this mill for a time but he probably did not start it. He later moved the mill to Maple Street and Highway 632. Attached to the saw mill was a shingle mill. It was dismantled in the early 1930s. A new mill was built next on Shadow River at the site of the early Bishton Mill by Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hunstein. They drew their logs from up the Nipissing Road by team and sleigh. Later the mill was moved to near Turtle Lake.

When Mr. Einar Finnson was a boy in the 1920s, he remembers logs being brought down Shadow River in the early spring and taken by tug boats down the lake to the mill at Rosseau Falls or to Bala or Gravenhurst. Many logs, mainly hardwood, were drawn down to the main bay in winter and dumped on the ice at the navigation docks, and boomed to be drawn down the lake in the spring by tug boat.

Photo left: **Bishton's saw mill by the first bridge on Shadow River. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RI004.**

Photo right: **Here a group photograph was arranged, date unknown. The names of the people in the photo are unknown. This photo really gives an idea of the size of the logs that were moved over the lake. Note, there are men, women and children posing for the photo. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RI003.**

Telephone Service

The turn of the century saw many changes in our way of life. In Rosseau it also introduced a new method of communication, the telephone. Prior to this time the only way of reaching the outside world quickly from Rosseau was by telegraph. The first telephone line to be put into operation was the initiative of the three Coate brothers whose residences were a few miles south of Rosseau. They built a single private line connecting the telegraph office which was in the Monteith Hotel to

each of their residences. This was for their convenience so that business messages could be relayed by telephone. This line was built around 1900. It was not until 1908 that the Bell Telephone Company built a toll line through the Village for long distance service connecting Bracebridge and Parry Sound and other points in Muskoka and the Parry Sound districts. On August 18th, 1908, Mr. C. V. Shaw was appointed local manager for Rosseau and arrangements were made to open the telephone exchange. In 1917, the Rosseau Independent Telephone System was organized under the ownership and management of Mr. J. Russell Bell and consisted of a few party lines through parts of Humphrey and Cardwell Townships and south to Bent River together with a few individual lines in the Village served by a switch board in Mr. Bell's home on Locke Street.

During the first part of 1922 a petition was presented to the Council of Humphrey Township requesting the formation of the Humphrey Municipal telephone system and on June 12th, 1922 a meeting of was held in the Town Hall with those interested in the transfer of the Rosseau Independent System to a group of subscribers. After several meetings, a meeting of subscribers was held on October 14th, 1922 at which the following Board Commissioners were appointed for the control and management of the Humphrey Municipal System: Mr. Gus Grenkie, Mr. W. S. Lorrimer, and Mr. William Stoneman. The Commissioners passed a resolution asking the council of Humphrey to raise the sum of $8,000 by debenture for the purchase and extension of the present system. In 1923 an exchange of service between Christie Municipal Telephone System and Humphrey System was arranged with a line built from Rosseau to the central system of Christie in Orrville and provision of free calls between subscribers of the two systems was an outlet for long distance calls over lines of the Bell Telephone Company through the central line at Rosseau. During the first year of operation, Mr. H. Myers was lineman and Mrs. J. R. Bell continued as switchboard operator. In 1924, Mr. J. A. Wilson was employed as lineman together with the operation of the switchboard for which he supplied his own staff of operators. In 1932, the building located on Lot 19 on the west side of the Parry Sound Road, in the Village was purchased as a central office and residence. A new switchboard was installed during that year. Mr. Victor Jobbins was engaged as linesman, and he and his wife operated the switchboard. Mr. & Mrs. Jobbins moved from Rosseau in 1945 and for the following year Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Smith were in charge of the system. Following the Smiths a few other families were employed as linemen and operators.

Photo above: **The first Phone Office was located on Lock Street. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RM091.**

Photo above: **The second Phone Office was located where the bakery, *"Old Country Kitchen Bakery & Take-out"* (1989-2003) at #1138 HWY 141. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RM092.**

For several years there was only two listings for Rosseau in the telephone directory, the telephone office and the Monteith Hotel. However by 1911 the numbers had increased to eight and in the directory of 1917, 58 subscribers were listed under the Independent Rosseau Telephone System.

Hilltop

The Rocky Top Trading Post (1992 - 2000) is not the original building, and its name has changed a number of times over the years. It was in 1872 or 1873 when Mr. Samuel Greer erected this building and applied for a shop licence in June 1873. The next owner was Mr. Fryer and son William in 1876, followed by Mr. William Ashdown who bought it for his brother Charles, who operated a hotel business for a few years. He sold it to Mr. Deacon, followed by Mr. George Raymond. Mr. Raymond had the first bakery, and also sold groceries and had a bar room in the side room of the building. It is believed one or two more parties owned the property before Mr. George Brown & Co. moved from his store at Ashdown, to begin a business in Rosseau.

Photo above: **Hilltop. Note the sign for *"Public Library."* Names of people in photo are unknown. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RS043.**

Mr. Brown had the first public library in the Village. It was a small glass case containing a few books. In 1922 the property was sold to Mr. George Albert Atkinson. Brown & Co. took over the General Store across the street. Mr. Atkinson had the express office there and used the side room as an Undertaking Parlour, as it was called then. He also ran a stage and had the mail contract. This building burned on November 21st, 1925. Mr. Atkinson built on the same site, almost a duplicate of the original building, less the veranda. Mr. Atkinson had kept his horses and machinery, including a hearse, in his barn. In earlier days, people coming in from the country in the winter, could stable their horses here, while they attended to their business. There were also gas tanks at the rear of the building, but closer to the highway. After Mr. Atkinson's death in 1945, the property was sold to Victor and Isabella (Hall) Whight and their partners Ellis and Mae (Whight) Gates, who did extensive renovations and opened a Tea Room. At this time it became known as Hilltop.

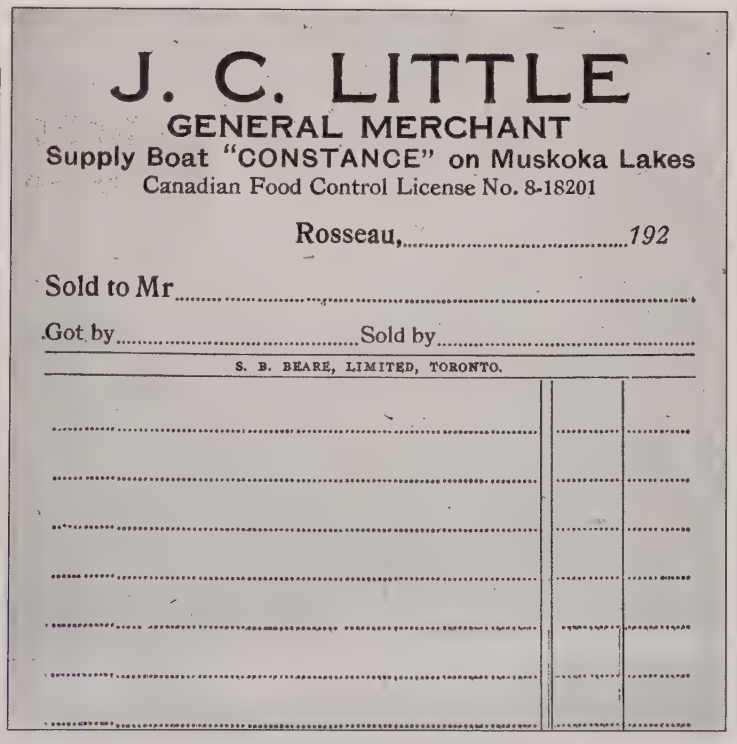
The Rosseau General Store

We have been unable to find who built the store, the year or to be certain of the first shopkeeper. Mr. C.K. Beley (1868-1949) had written that the first people he remembered at the store were the Peacocks, 1875-1896. The following names were not necessarily the owners, or in the proper succession:

Photo above: **The Rosseau General Store, photo taken about 1890 by Frederick Wilkes. RS001.**

Owners

Mr. Reid, 1878
Mr. Edward Jordon, until about 1887
Homer & Wade, then Homer &Co.
Fenn Anderson-Mr Sawyer (Manager)
Mr. D. M.Grant
Mr. Jerry Little to 1922
Mr. James K. Brown 1922-1946
Einarson & Co.1946-1967
Joe & Fran Devenish 1967-1972
Ben & Lil Tassie 1972-1985
Ann (Reeves) Marlow/Swift 1985-1990
Tony & Linda Hill 1990-1997
Brian & Cheryl Fright 1997-



J. C. LITTLE
GENERAL MERCHANT
Supply Boat "CONSTANCE" on Muskoka Lakes
Canadian Food Control License No. 8-18201

Rosseau,.....192

Sold to Mr.....

Got by.....Sold by.....

S. B. BEARE, LIMITED, TORONTO.

Receipt above: **Example of J.C. Little, General Merchant of Rosseau General Store's Bill of Sale. Terms were "Positively 30 Days." Receipt courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RS044.**

Postcard above: **The supply boat or floating store operated out of Rosseau, calling at homes, summer resorts and the first cottages along the lake. J.C. Little & Co's Supply Boat. Postcard courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RN016.**

Photo above: **The interior of the supply boat "Constance." Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RN017.**

Photo above: **The interior of the store taken from the front entrance. Probable date 1904. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RS045.**

Photo above: **The lower level of the General Store taken from the back entrance. Probable date 1904. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RS046.**

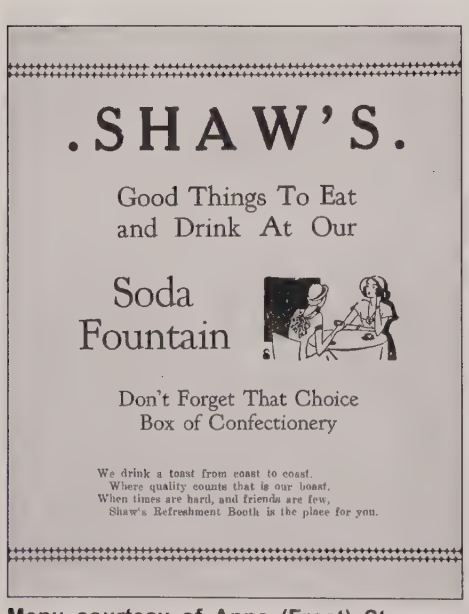
Photo above: **The Rosseau General Store in the Autumn of 1942 with Jim Brown, Prop. and Catherine Amelia (Brown) Coate who was married to Charles Buckland (C.B.) Coate. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RS047.**

From the Rosseau news column April 1947:

"Vast improvements are being made in the Rosseau General Store. It has been made into a modern self-serve."

Shaw's

Mr. Clarence Vivian Shaw's combination store and house located on HWY 141 across from the Marina was a familiar and popular spot in Rosseau. Mr. Clarence V. Shaw was born on October 17th, 1885 and lived to be a 101 years old. He died on February 11th, 1987.



.SHAW'S.

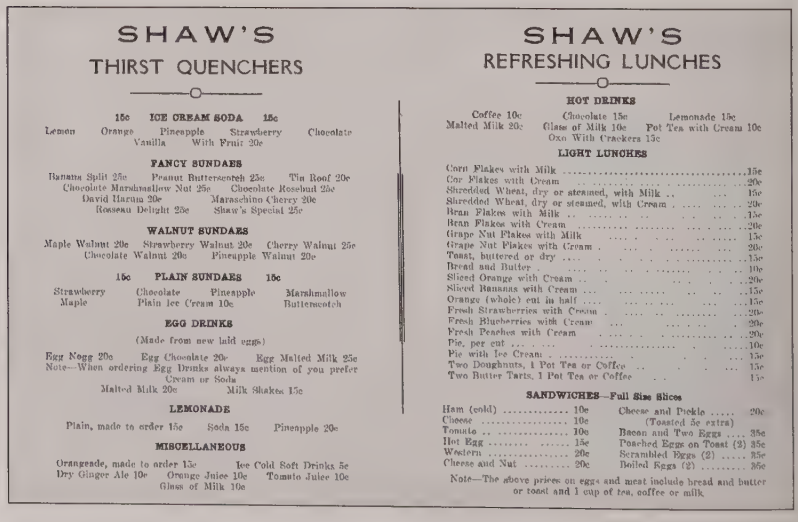
Good Things To Eat
and Drink At Our

Soda
Fountain

Don't Forget That Choice
Box of Confectionery

We drink a toast from coast to coast.
Where quality counts that is our boast.
When times are hard, and friends are few,
Shaw's Refreshment Booth is the place for you.

Menu courtesy of Anne (Frost) Stevens. RS048a,b,c.



SHAW'S
THIRST QUENCHERS

15c ICE CREAM SODA 15c
Lemon Orange Pineapple Strawberry Chocolate
Vanilla With Fruit 20c

FANCY SUNDAES
Banana Split 25c Peanut Butterscotch 25c Tin Roof 20c
Chocolate Marshmallow Nut 25c Chocolate Rosebud 25c
David Harum 20c Maraschino Cherry 20c
Rosseau Delight 25c Shaw's Special 25c

WALNUT SUNDAES
Maple Walnut 20c Strawberry Walnut 20c Cherry Walnut 25c
Chocolate Walnut 20c Pineapple Walnut 20c

15c PLAIN SUNDAES 15c
Strawberry Chocolate Pineapple Marshmallow
Maple Plain Ice Cream 10c Butterscotch

EGG DRINKS
(Made from new laid eggs)
Egg Nogg 20c Egg Chocolate 20c Egg Malted Milk 25c
Note—When ordering Egg Drinks always mention if you prefer Cream or Soda
Malted Milk 20c Milk Shakes 15c

LEMONADE
Plain, made to order 15c Soda 15c Pineapple 20c

MISCELLANEOUS
Orangeade, made to order 15c Ice Cold Soft Drinks 5c
Dry Ginger Ale 10c Orange Juice 10c Tomato Juice 10c
Glass of Milk 10c

SHAW'S
REFRESHING LUNCHES

HOT DRINKS
Coffee 10c Chocolate 15c Lemonade 15c
Malted Milk 20c Glass of Milk 10c Pot Tea with Cream 10c
Oxo With Crackers 15c

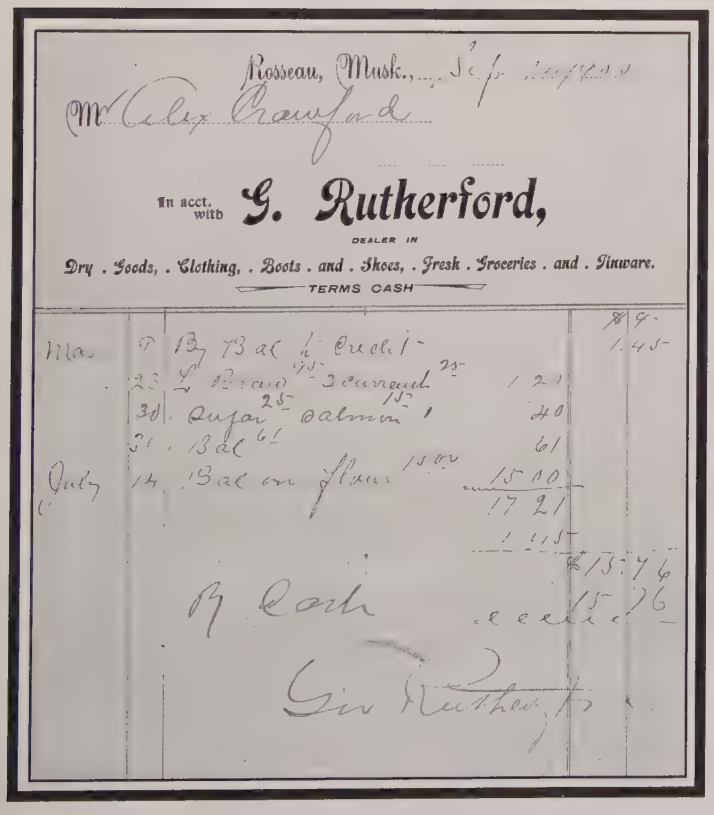
LIGHT LUNCHES
Corn Flakes with Milk 15c
Cor Flakes with Cream 20c
Shredded Wheat, dry or steamed, with Milk 15c
Shredded Wheat, dry or steamed, with Cream 20c
Bran Flakes with Milk 15c
Bran Flakes with Cream 20c
Grape Nut Flakes with Milk 15c
Grape Nut Flakes with Cream 20c
Toast, buttered or dry 15c
Bread and Butter 10c
Sliced Orange with Cream 20c
Sliced Bananas with Cream 15c
Orange (whole) cut in half 15c
Fresh Strawberries with Cream 20c
Fresh Blueberries with Cream 20c
Fresh Peaches with Cream 20c
Pie, per cut 10c
Pie with Ice Cream 15c
Two Doughnuts, 1 Pot Tea or Coffee 15c
Two Butter Tarts, 1 Pot Tea or Coffee 15c

SANDWICHES—Full Size Slices
Ham (cold) ..... 10c Cheese and Pickle 20c
Cheese ..... 10c (Toasted 5c extra)
Tomato ..... 10c Bacon and Two Eggs 35c
Hot Egg ..... 15c Poached Eggs on Toast (2) 35c
Western ..... 20c Scrambled Eggs (2) 35c
Cheese and Nut ..... 20c Boiled Eggs (2) 30c

Note—The above prices on eggs and meat include bread and butter or toast and 1 cup of tea, coffee or milk.

Photo left: **Looking south from HWY 141 and Cardwell Road. Clarence V. Shaw's and the Barber are on the left. Across the road is the Blacksmith's shop and the Monteith Dance Hall. Photo courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RV031.**

Photo right: **In front of the Barber Shop where Clarence V. Shaw said "Lets take the horse in to get his hair cut !" Clarence V. Shaw is sitting in the "Democrat", and the Barber, Mr. Bjarni Finnson is standing by the horse. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RS051.**



Rosseau, Musk., ... Sept ... 1900

Mr Alex Crawford

In acct. with **G. Rutherford,**

DEALER IN

Dry . Goods, . Clothing, . Boots . and . Shoes, . Fresh . Groceries . and . Tinware.

TERMS CASH

			$ c.
Mar. 7	By 73 lbs butter		1.45
23	1 Braid 75 3 Carpet 25	1 00	
30	Sugar 25 Salmon 15	40	
31	Bal	61	
July 14	Bal on flour 15.00	15 80	
		17 21	
		1 45	
		$15 76	

By Cash ... 15 76

Geo Rutherford

Receipt left: **An orginial receipt dated September 14th, 1900 from the Store of *"G. Rutherford."* It was located at #2 Cardwell Road. Current location of Crossroads, Pub & Grill (2003-2006). The building later became the Dominion Bank. Mr. Alex Crawford, the patron, is the grandfather of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. Copy of receipt is courtesy of Doreen (Shortt) Nowak. RS052.**

Other Stores

Photo above: **This building was situated at the south east corner of Cardwell Road and HWY 141 (#2 Cardwell Road) with the sign *"The Dominion Bank"* on the north side when the bank was there (1921 - 1942). Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RM093.**

This building, designed as a Store with attached living quarters is believed to have been built by Mr. Robert Shuttleworth. The first man to operate a Store in this building was we believe, Mr. George Rutherford, who was a Merchant and was still there in 1878. He operated the business for a few years, then got work with the Anglo-Canadian Tannery Co.. His family continued to live in the house attached to the store, but the Store was closed until he sold to Dave & Jerry Little. The Littles operated the Store business together until Mr. Jerry Little took over the General Store across the highway (at that time a dirt road).

By the year 1921, the Dominion Bank had opened in the annex section of the building. When Mr. John Knowles bought the property, the bank moved to the larger room which had been the Store.

Photo left: **The Dominion Bank. The names of the people on porch are unknown. Photo courtesy of Dorothy E. Coate. RM094.**

Mr. John Knowles was a plumber and electrician, and in May 1925, he put up the first street light in the Village on the corner of Parry Sound Road and Cardwell Road. He also had a Service Station.

Photo left: **Mr. John Knowles's Service Station on the right. People are gathering around the car in the centre of picture because this is the official car of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth while they were on tour of Canada in 1939. The King & Queen travelled to Sudbury by train, and this car was being driven to Sudbury for their use. The one person we have been able to identify in this picture is Emily (Holton) Wood, who is standing in the foreground on the far left side of the picture. Photo courtesy of the Rosseau Historical Society. RE009.**

Much to the disappointment of the Village folk, and those of the surrounding area, the branch of the Dominion Bank was closed at the end of March 1942. In April of that year, Mr. George Clubbe was operating the Service Station for Mr. Knowles.

From the Rosseau News, December 3rd, 1942:

"Mr. Knowles has the room formerly used as the bank, fitted up quite nicely for his ice cream counter, candy and tobacco shop."

Mr. John Knowles sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. Elgin Morrison who continued to operate a lunch counter and Service Station. In September 1949 all the buildings were destroyed by fire. Mr. Leonard Wright had rented space there for a barber shop and it too was destroyed in the fire. In 1950, Bill & Bernice Gates bought the property and built a Service Station and restaurant with living quarters above. They also had two small housekeeping cabins on the hill side below the restaurant.

Photo left: **Mr. Vic Cox's Service Station. Mr. Jim Wood built the Service Station in 1932. Mr. Jim Wood sold it to Mr. Harry Demerick of Parry Sound then Mr. Cox bought the Service Station in October of 1935 from Mr. Harry Demerick. The Cox's home and business was destroyed by fire in August of 1949. The girl in photo is Rhoda (Cox) Bailey. Photo courtesy of Evelyn (Barber) Frost. RI078.**

Copy of the 1926 Survey Map of the Village of Rosseau, from the Parry Sound Land Registry. RV005b.

PART 2

Copy of the 1926 Survey Map of the Village of Rosseau, from the Parry Sound Land Registry. RV005a.

PART 1
PLAN OF THE
VILLAGE OF ROSSEAU
IN THE
DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND
INCORPORATED APRIL 8TH 1926
Scale-1"=200'
N
LAKE
ROSSEAU
I CERTIFY THAT THE WITHIN PLAN IS DULY ENTERED AND REGISTERED IN THE REGISTRY OFFICE FOR THE REGISTRY DIVISION OF PARRY SOUND THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 1928 AS PLAN NUMBER 163
C. GILLESPIE
REGISTRAR
PART 1
163

Crest of the Rosseau Historical Society was designed and drawn by Audrey Tournay, Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary - 1997. RO140.

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